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VOLUME LXVI, NUMBER 20042

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 1998 • TISHREI 9, 5759 • 9 JAMAD THANI 1419

NIS 4.50 (EILAT NIS 3.85)



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Arabs to strike over Wadi Ara clashes

By DAVID RUDGE and STEVE RODAN

Security forces have been put on full alert for the duration of the general strike in the Israeli Arab community today, following continuing clashes in the Umm el-Fahm area.

Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip were also expected to join the strike, following calls by Fatah for a show of solidarity.

The one-day stoppage was called by the Israeli Arab leadership to protest what they described as brutal behavior by border policemen and police during riots in the Wadi Ara region on Sunday.

West Bank Fatah leader Marwan Barghout praised what he called the battle of the "1948 Arabs" - the term Palestinians use for Israeli Arabs - against IDF attempts to seize their land.

He compared the struggle of Umm el-Fahm to that of the Palestinians have been waging against Israel since 1967.

The fighting, which followed the demolition of an illegal protest tent on disputed land near Umm el-Fahm, continued sporadically yesterday, following Sunday's violence in which scores of stone-throwing demonstrators and members of the security forces were wounded.

The clashes yesterday were confined mainly to the entrance to Umm el-Fahm from the Wadi Ara highway and inside the town itself.

The confrontation continued despite a cease-fire agreement that was reached late on Sunday night and the efforts of mediators, as well as Israeli Arab leaders, to restore calm yesterday.

The compromise itself was brokered by Labor MK Micha Goldmann, chairman of the Knesset Interior Committee, which convened in Umm el-Fahm yesterday as part of the mediation efforts.

Committee members confirmed the agreement, which called for a withdrawal of security forces from the area in return for a cessation of hostile activities.

They also ratified the second part of the accord relating to 520 dunams of land belonging mainly to farmers in Muawiya village near Umm el-Fahm.

It was this patch of land which was at the heart of the dispute that sparked the violent clashes on Sunday.

In May, the Defense Ministry announced that the land would be annexed to an existing IDF firing zone and would become a closed military area.

The Israeli Arab leadership, as well as local farmers, objected and set up a protest tent on part of the disputed land just off the Wadi Ara highway.

It was the demolition of the protest tent by police and border policemen and the eviction of the handful of demonstrators there on Sunday morning that sparked the rioting.

See STRIKE, Page 2

US urges peace deal by mid-Oct.



Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat makes a point to President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu following their summit meeting at the White House yesterday.

By HILLEL KUTTLER and DANNA HARMAN

WASHINGTON - A redeployment agreement could be finalized in mid-October, when Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat return to Washington for a follow-up summit, President Bill Clinton declared yesterday.

The three leaders made "significant progress" when they met at the White House yesterday, Clinton said in the Oval Office, standing between Netanyahu and Arafat.

He stated that a "significant narrowing of the gaps" has occurred on "all major areas" that have held up a deal.

"We made significant progress on the path to peace, and I think we can finish it in mid-October - and I certainly hope we do," Clinton said. "I think we're closer together on virtually every major issue that either Chairman Arafat [or] Prime Minister Netanyahu has mentioned to me than before."

Netanyahu and Arafat will return to Washington in mid-October to try to hammer out a final pact, Clinton said. He added that the three of them had agreed that no deal would be complete until all the outstanding issues are resolved, unless Netanyahu and Arafat decide otherwise.

Clinton said he is dispatching Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross to the region next week to prepare for the follow-up summit. Albright said the visit would last for a few days, beginning October 5 or 6.

Following the summit, Arafat traveled to New York to address the UN, while Clinton and Netanyahu met. Arafat is scheduled to return to Washington today for his own meeting with Clinton.

Albright told reporters that the three-way summit resulted from the trilateral meetings she held with Netanyahu and Arafat in New York on Sunday night.

She said that a significant component of the leaders' return visit to Washington will be the inclusion of technical experts from both sides, who can discuss the outstanding issues fluently and eliminate the need for political leaders to undertake lengthy consultations.

The US has not yet decided on the venue for the talks, but they would be in the Washington area, she said.

While pointing generally to positive developments during the 90-minute summit, Clinton also told reporters in the White House:

"I think also, to be candid, there is a substantial amount of work to be done until a comprehensive agreement can be reached. And because I am convinced that the two leaders and the people they represent want an agreement, I have asked them to come to the US in mid-October with their teams to do the intensive work necessary to see if we can conclude this."

Israeli officials later highlighted Clinton's emphasis of that point, as underlining their contention that - even with virtual agreement by Jerusalem to accede to Washington's proposal for a 13 percent withdrawal from the West Bank - the deal is not done until Israel's demands are met by the Palestinians fulfilling their security commitments.

The summit was Clinton's first meeting with Netanyahu and Arafat since hosting separate meetings with the two in late January, when he presented them his plan for unfreezing the negotiations.

Those sessions occurred just as news of the Monica Lewinsky scandal was becoming public, and yesterday's summit was the president's first opportunity to present a foreign policy achievement - or any White House gain at all - since the Kenneth Starr report to Congress on the affair led to discussion of his possible impeachment.

In a brief question-and-answer session, Clinton said it would be "an error" for him to discuss the question of a Palestinian state. But, illustrating the administration's efforts in recent days to convince Arafat to temper his public statements on the matter, Clinton twice said the issue of a Palestinian state is to be decided through direct negotiations leading to a final-status accord.

Asked about his wife's expressed support for a Palestinian state last spring, Clinton smiled and said: "She did, but she's not the president and she's not trying to manage the peace process. In the end, whether there will be an agreement will depend on how badly they want it, how much we work together, how much trust can be built and sustained, what kind of process for ensuring the agreement can be agreed on by the two parties."

See SUMMIT, Page 2

Arafat calls for int'l conference

By MARILYN HENRY

UNITED NATIONS - Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat stopped short of announcing plans to declare an independent Palestinian state in his speech before the UN General Assembly yesterday. Instead, he called for an international conference to save the peace process.

Speaking only hours after meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and US President Bill Clinton in Washington, Arafat thanked the American president, "who graciously took an important step to save the peace process."

Arafat then called on Russia, China, Japan, and the European Union to support the French-Egyptian proposal for an international conference "of all states determined to save the peace process from the dangerous crisis it has reached."

Arafat blamed Netanyahu for the delay in the peace process and also appeared to assail the US, although not by name, for vetoing 21 resolutions on the Palestinian question in the Security Council since 1973.

Arafat said the Palestinians represented the oldest and largest refugee question in the world and "our land still suffers under occupation and colonial settlements."

He accused Israel of isolating Bethlehem and Hebron "to escalate the suppression and the siege of our people and to destroy the peace process."

Arafat, who received a rousing welcome, said the Palestinians will continue to implement their obligations under the existing agreements.

But he also said: "We will not give up on a need for Israeli compliance with those agreements and the implementation of their pending obligations without delays or evasiveness. We will not give up our national rights nor will we give up the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people."

continue to implement their obligations under the existing agreements.

He called on the UN, as a source of international legitimacy, to stand by the Palestinians, "especially as the five-year transitional period provided for in the Palestinian-Israeli agreements will end on May 4, 1999, and our people demand of us to shoulder our responsibilities, and they await the establishment of their independence state."

Albright not as optimistic as Clinton

ANALYSIS

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - At the start of Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's press briefing on President Bill Clinton's summit with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian

See ANALYSIS, Page 3

Hot weather predicted for fast

By LIAT COLLINS, JUDY SIEGEL and MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Temperatures are expected to climb to about 30 degrees today in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, but may drop somewhat during Yom Kippur, forecasters said yesterday.

The fast begins today in Jerusalem at 4:51 p.m., Tel Aviv at 5:09, and Haifa at 5:01 p.m. and ends at 6:05 p.m. tomorrow.

Medical experts recommend drinking water at regular intervals before the fast and keeping out of the sun.

The IDF is imposing a total closure on the territories from 2 p.m. today until Thursday at 1 a.m.

The IDF Spokesman said urgent humanitarian and medical assistance will be granted to Palestinians during the closure.

Meanwhile, members of the Anonymous animal rights group held protests against the traditional pre-Yom Kippur *kapparot* ceremony in which a chicken is swung in the air before being slaughtered and the meat given to the poor.

The protesters say the practice is cruel and quote authorities such as Rabbi Yosef Karo and Nachmanides, who ruled that money could be used instead.

"We are not telling people to refrain from Jewish tradition but are just showing them an acceptable Jewish alternative," said the group's Liza Shik at Tel Aviv's Carmel market yesterday.

Dr. Michael Golobner of Shaal

advises that people who take aspirin on a regular basis not take the pill during the fast because it could affect their stomach. Don't overeat in the meal before the fast, and coffee drinkers should have cut down during the past few days to avoid getting withdrawal headaches.

The fast is easier if you eat a final meal of complex carbohydrates (potatoes, pasta, rice, and pulses), minimizing the amount of fat and avoiding alcohol and salty and spicy food.

After the completion of the fast, drink liquids first and eat a light meal; only half an hour later eat a fuller meal. People suffering from chronic diseases should consult their doctor about what to do on Yom Kippur.

Clalit sues US, local tobacco firms for NIS 7.6b.

By JUDY SIEGEL

Kupat Holim Clalit yesterday filed a NIS 7.6 billion lawsuit against foreign and local tobacco companies in the Jerusalem District Court seeking compensation for the cost of treating its members for smoking-related diseases.

The firms named in the suit are Philip Morris, R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, Brown and Williamson, British American Tobacco Company, Liggett &

Myers, Lorillard Tobacco Company, and Dubek.

The suit is unprecedented, both here by the size of the damages sought and in the world because Clalit is the first to sue tobacco companies in other countries for the health damage caused by their products.

Clalit director Yitzhak Peterburg said Clalit regards the suit as "a public mission, not only to get compensation for medical expenses, but also to warn the tobacco companies and force them to act according to the law, providing full information to the public about the contents and likely dangers of their products."

He also said he wanted the court to force the defendants to observe

fully the law barring cigarette advertisements aimed at young people and praising smoking, and to warn the public against the dangers of its products.

The Clalit suit not only includes the foreign companies and Dubek, but also a personal suit against Zerah Gehl, who headed Dubek from 1970 until several years ago.

Previously, the Maccabi health fund filed a suit in Tel Aviv District Court against Dubek alone.

The plaintiff's brief says the health fund spent NIS 7.6b. between 1990 and 1998 on treating members who smoked, and bases its per-capita figures on suits for \$17.5b. in Texas, \$11.3b. in Florida, \$6.5b. in Minnesota, and \$3.6b. in Mississippi.

Dubek spokesman Ran Rahav said the company had "not yet received the brief and that when it did," he would consider issuing a reaction.

Clalit charges that the Israeli and foreign companies "could have developed much less dangerous cigarettes decades ago, and they even started such research. But they dropped this work out of fear that it would be an admission of guilt that their products had been so toxic until then."

Dubek, the brief maintains, also conducted research on producing cigarettes from lettuce leaves, but abandoned it because it "feared it would be an admission of guilt and that they would lose the existing addictive effects of tobacco."



Policemen remove Jewish women, including Miriam Levinger (left), from the Arab market in Hebron yesterday following clashes between the women and Palestinians there.

Herzliya woman shot in Hebron

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Shots were fired from the Palestinian-controlled sector Hebron at a group of visiting Israelis yesterday as they were on the road leading to Tel Rumeida; a 52-year-old woman was wounded in the knee.

Esther Hizme of Herzliya was transferred to Hadassah-University Hospital in Ein Kerem for treatment. Doctors believe she will be released today.

The attack came days after shots were fired at a resident of Kiryat Arba. It is the fifth time shots have

been fired at Jewish civilians in Judea and Samaria since the beginning of August, when two yeshiva students were shot and killed at Yitzhar.

The IDF lodged a complaint with the Palestinian security forces and demanded they act to prevent further attacks.

Following the attack, OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon barred all traffic from the road to Tel Rumeida.

Palestinian security officials were seen patrolling the area between the city's two sections

shortly after the attack. Among them was West Bank Preventive Security Chief Jibril Rajoub.

Later in the afternoon clashes between Palestinians and Jewish residents erupted after a group of Jewish women entered the market in the casbah area and reportedly overturned vegetable stalls and yelled at Palestinians.

As police attempted to quell the disturbance, one of the women was injured, as were a policeman and policewoman.

See HEBRON, Page 2



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NEWS

in brief

Pirate station hindered airport transmission

Broadcasts by the pirate radio station Shuvu Yisrael, which transmits from the Mekor Baruch neighborhood of Jerusalem, interfered with communications at the control tower at Ben-Gurion Airport yesterday.

Police raided the station last night and confiscated its equipment. The station's operator was detained for questioning. *Itim*

Kadourie 'kapparot' aiding charity
For those who missed out on Rabbi Yitzhak Kadourie's amulets before the last elections, you can join his national "kapparot redemption to save the nation of Israel" for only NIS 26 a person. This morning, 10 rabbis will pray for Israel's redemption and for the traditional chicken which is to be sacrificed instead of Israel. "All those who participate in this holy mission will be inscribed in the Book of Life," Kadourie wrote on the pamphlet, sponsored by the Hasdei Yosef non-profit organization. *Amy Klein*

Peres calls on Ovadia Yosef

Labor's Shimon Peres last night called on Shas mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef in his Jerusalem home. The meeting was arranged by former Labor MK Rafi Eidi and comes only a short time after Labor Party Chairman Ehud Barak criticized the homage paid by politicians to another Shas icon, centenarian kabbalist Rabbi Yitzhak Kadourie.

Yosef hotly defended Kadourie and poured scathing scorn on his critics, including Barak.

The Peres-Yosef meeting was largely a courtesy call, although Yosef did reaffirm in general terms his "support for the peace process," according to Eidi. *Sarah Honig*

Egypt marks 1973 war with prisoner release

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has pardoned 2,300 prisoners to mark the 25th anniversary of the Yom Kippur War, police officials said yesterday. The amnesty does not cover prisoners convicted for terrorism and vice, said the officials, speaking on customary condition of anonymity. *AP*

Islamic Jihad leader released from PA prison

Abdallah Shami, the leader of Islamic Jihad, was released Sunday from a Palestinian jail after six weeks. He said yesterday he was held for writing an article in which he criticized Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority. *AP*

Yitzhaki gets reprimand for gun incident

Police Inspector-General Yehuda Witk will register a reprimand in the personal file of Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Yair Yitzhaki, who accidentally fired a bullet from his pistol last week as he was touring the lock-up at the capital's Russian Compound.

A policewoman was very lightly hurt by ricochet fragments. The results of an investigation by Deputy Inspector-General Sando Mazor were passed to the head of the Justice Ministry's Police Investigations Department, Eran Shendar, who decided the matter could be handled at the disciplinary level, and there was no need for a formal investigation. *Itim*

Jordanian seeks title of world's smallest man

A Jordanian who stands just 65 cm tall said yesterday he hopes to be officially recognized as the world's shortest living man.

"I'm optimistic about entering The Guinness Book of World Records as the world's smallest man," Younis Edwan, 27, said at his home in Amman.

Guinness officials said they need an average of measurements at different times of day to register his official height, but said they had no record of anyone smaller than 65 cm.

Edwan gets about in an electric wheelchair and says his hobbies include collecting birds, travel, and reading. *Reuters*

Sharon move to Foreign Ministry not imminent

By SARAH HONIG

Ariel Sharon's appointment as foreign minister is not imminent, top Likud sources said last night.

However, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has discussed the matter with Sharon, and there is at least a limited understanding between them.

That neither side denied the reports and that the story was leaked while Netanyahu was about to meet Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in the US are also significant, according to the sources.

Netanyahu's activity in America is seen as an obvious source of unease to his coalition partners on the Right. The hurried trip to the US by leaders of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza is a case in point.

The possibility that Sharon would be put in charge of negotiating the

final-status agreement could be the carrot to calm longer-term right-wing anxieties, the sources said.

Moreover, this would also cool Sharon's anti-redeployment ardor, some in the Likud reason.

They argue that redeployment may become inevitable and that the next major struggle is over final status. The consensus in most Likud quarters is that Sharon would like to be in charge of shaping this and have a direct, hands-on effect on the negotiations.

Asked by Channel 1 if he would appoint Sharon to the post, Netanyahu did not deny that such plans were in the works, but said: "I'm not dealing with that now. I'm dealing with other matters."

In addition, it is thought that Sharon would not want to be associated with the pullback he so hotly opposes, and thus would not switch to the Foreign Ministry until after the withdrawal.

Despite rushing to US

Settler leaders fail to meet PM

By MARGOT DUDKEWITZ

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu did not meet yesterday with two members of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza who had jumped on a flight Sunday night to New York, hoping to speak to him before his scheduled meeting with US President Bill Clinton and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in Washington.

At home, right-wing MKs threatened to topple the government if Netanyahu goes ahead with the second redeployment.

Concerned over reports that Netanyahu had cut a deal with Clinton in exchange for Arafat agreeing to refrain from declaring the establishment of a Palestinian

state next May in his speech to the UN General Assembly, the council sent Ma'aleh Adumim Mayor Benny Kashriel and Beit El Local Council head Uri Ariel to the US.

The two wanted to express the settlers' concern and ask Netanyahu to stand firmly in his demands for reciprocity.

Learning of the council's plans, Netanyahu contacted council members Sunday night and asked them to refrain from sending Ariel and Kashriel.

Ignoring Netanyahu's request, the two flew to New York and continued on to Washington, where they arrived shortly before Netanyahu's meeting with Clinton and Arafat.

The two took with them a document drawn up by Yoel Singer,

one of the Oslo architects, stating that any unilateral declaration of statehood by Arafat would be tantamount to a major violation of the termination of the Oslo agreement.

Netanyahu's spokesman, Aviv Bushinsky, denied reports that the premier had refused to meet with the settler leaders, saying that the prime minister's aides had tried to locate them in New York or Washington but that they were not able to coordinate a meeting.

MK Hanan Porat (NRP) said his party would call for new elections if the redeployment took place, and that he already had 61 signatures that would allow him to convene the Knesset Law Committee to discuss the issue.

MK Rehavam Ze'evi (Moledet) warned his party would also call

to disband the Knesset if an agreement on the second withdrawal is reached.

Hearing reports that Netanyahu had reached an agreement on a 13% redeployment in the West Bank, Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom said on Arutz 7 yesterday that it had not been approved by the government and many ministers view such an agreement as "catastrophic."

MK Zvi Hendel (NRP) called on Netanyahu "not to gamble with Israel's security and your homeland's integrity simply to save Clinton's presidency, as you well know that the Oslo process will not lead to a true peace."

"We fear that Netanyahu may buckle under the pressure and agree to further concessions and overlook his demands of compli-

ance and reciprocity," council spokesman Yehudit Tayar said.

The settlers, said Tayar, are insisting that there be no compromise if there is no compromise.

Council director-general Aharon Domb spoke with Ariel and Kashriel on the telephone before they returned to Israel.

Meetings with key members of the Israeli delegation, they said, drew a mixed response: some had been "positive and others less positive."

Tayar said that, even if Netanyahu hadn't met with the two, that Netanyahu had been aware of their presence had served its purpose.

Domb said the council's executive board plans to hold an emergency meeting within the next few days to discuss strategy.

The buildup to the summit

BACKGROUND

The plan was for the Sunday night meeting of Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu meeting to be kept secret, but at the last minute the Americans leaked the information - probably, Israeli sources say, because they feared Arafat and Netanyahu would not go through with it.

After the meeting, it was Albright who pushed the sides to shake hands in front of the cameras, and it was again the Americans who pushed for the summit meeting in Washington.

It is clear that US President Bill Clinton is interested in pushing the process forward at this time for his own reasons. Why, though, did Arafat and Netanyahu agree to the summit?

First of all, it is hard to refuse an invitation to the White House; in addition, neither side wants to be blamed for lack of goodwill or desire to go forward.

Other factors are also at play. The Israelis reportedly agreed to the trilateral meeting with Albright after receiving assurances that Arafat would not announce the declaration of a Palestinian state next May 4 in his UN speech.

The Palestinians, in turn, were influenced by some of their friends from the left-wing factions in the Jewish community, who told them that a meeting with Netanyahu was important.

As for real breakthroughs, however, both sides say there weren't any. There were none leading up to the meetings, nor did any come out of them - despite the positive spin put on the meetings by the Americans.

Israel continues to insist that the deal cannot be done in parts, but rather must be accepted as a complete package and is demanding that the Palestinians commit themselves to the working paper on fighting terror.

Asked about this commitment at the joint press conference after the summit, Arafat refused to reply and deferred to Clinton. The president then affirmed the need to fight terror, but did not indicate that this commitment had been made.



Slitot in Hebron

Former Sephardi chief rabbi Mordechai Eliahu speaks during Slitot services at the Machpela Cave in Hebron yesterday.

(Efraim Kishchuk)

Out of the loop

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By SARAH HONIG

It is midnight in New York and the three players are standing uncomfortably under a folk-art painting of the American flag on the 42nd floor of New York's posh Waldorf-Astoria hotel.

The trilateral meeting between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has just finished.

Reporters, cameramen, out-of-the-loop spokespeople, and a motley crew of hangers-on wander the narrow hallways and travel up and down in the elevators in a mad attempt to locate the action.

We all finally stumble into the suite of rooms, grasping for information: Why had it been decided to hold the meeting? Had there been a breakthrough? Was there going to be a summit meeting in Washington? Was there going to be a second withdrawal?

What did the Middle Easterners think of the rainy Manhattan weather?

Albright says the meeting was important. She is happy it has

taken place, but will not discuss substantive details. Arafat and Netanyahu nod in agreement, shaking hands on command and smiling for the cameras. And the weather?

"Terrible," says Netanyahu. "Nice," said Arafat.

Obviously, points of contention still remain.

A tired senior US official in a T-shirt and jeans gives those who stick around a background briefing. "For those of you who are Israeli," he reminds us over and over, "this is background. That means background. Not to be quoted in my name."

Moments later, Israelis wake up to an account of his words: There will be a summit meeting in Washington with US President Bill Clinton. "We play by different rules," explains a radio man nonchalantly regarding the "background" issue.

Cabinet secretary Dan Naveh and Netanyahu spokesman Aviv

Bushinsky race back to Netanyahu's hotel several blocks away to give live interviews on the radio this morning shows in Israel.

Standing in the enormous and empty breakfast room, with musk blaring in the background, they insist Israel is giving up on nothing yet.

"We are going to the White House to bridge more gaps."

"We are waiting for the Palestinians to make a commitment to their security working paper."

The fact that for the beleaguered Clinton, any photo op not involving a grand jury is a nice respite, goes unmentioned.

A deal will be signed, but not just now. The White House ceremony will probably take place in a few weeks, after Succot, once a strong commitment from the Palestinians regarding terror is reached, and once the matter of defining the 3 percent nature reserve is concluded.

Netanyahu, meanwhile, is trying to pre-empt criticism: He calls Minister of National Infrastructure Ariel Sharon - a known critic of the 13 percent withdrawal plan - reportedly to offer him the position of foreign minister.

Settler leaders Uri Ariel and Benny Kashriel jump on a plane from Tel Aviv to dissuade the prime minister from making any rash moves.

They miss the entourage, which is being whisked off to JFK Airport with a full NYPD escort as they sit in the morning rush hour traffic, frantically yelling about percentages into their cellular phones.

At Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington early the next morning, Netanyahu kids, Avner and Yair, play hide-and-seek with their babysitter as the Israeli press corps, juggling their Baby Gap shopping bags and notebooks, put on their ties and set off for the White House lawn.

Arafat and Netanyahu walk in. The Israelis snap photos of themselves on the lawn.

HEBRON

Continued from Page 1

Judea and Samaria Police spokesman Opher Sivan said police had detained a Jewish woman for questioning and arrested a Palestinian who had assaulted a Jewish woman.

The Hebron Jewish community immediately called on Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to halt negotiations with the Palestinians.

Community spokesman Noam Arnon declared that by agreeing to further withdrawals from the West Bank, Israel would be granting terrorists further pockets of refuge.

"Perhaps if the army carries out hot pursuit instead of allowing the terrorists to flee, things would change," he added.

Another community spokesman, David Wilder, said it is up to the IDF to provide security for the residents. He added that the Israeli government had guaranteed to provide security in the Hebron Accords.

"It is clear that the accords have been a complete failure and the terrorists with great ease carry out attacks and flee into the areas under Palestinian control, knowing that the IDF will not pursue them," he charged.

Hebron commander Col. Yigal Sharon said there had been a sharp rise in terrorist activities in the city and the army is monitoring the situation.

The IDF spokesman said that if Palestinian perpetrators are identified by the IDF troops, then they are pursued into the Palestinian areas. Unfortunately, this has not been the case in recent incidents, the spokesman added.

Hizme had come to with a group of relatives to the bar mitzva of a Beit Hadassah resident. The group was walking from Tel Rumeida toward Beit Hadassah via Shuhada Street when four shots were fired at them.

IDF and police sealed off the immediate area, which has been the site of stonethrowing and firebomb attacks for several months.

"Yesterday's attack took place under the nose of an IDF outpost. By the time they realized what happened, the attack was over and the perpetrators had disappeared," charged Wilder.

On Sunday night, shots were fired at a joint patrol in Bethlehem. No one was hurt, and the IDF spokesman said no bullets had penetrated the vehicle.

Palestinian policemen searching the area found five bullet casings.

STRIKE

Continued from Page 1

Under the accord that was formulated by Goldman, with the backing of Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Israeli Arab leaders, farmers will be allowed to continue to tend their olive groves and cultivate their crops on the disputed land until the end of December.

The agreement, however, did not seem to satisfy all the local residents.

"What happened here was an attempt by the police and Border Police to reconquer Umm el-Fahm and its surroundings," said another man, pointing to the debris still scattered over the road from the battles of the previous day.

Dr. Ahmed Tibi, personal adviser to Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, who visited the town, accused the Border Police and police of using a different code of behavior towards Israeli Arabs than to other citizens.

"The relation toward the people [on the part of the security forces] is one as if this was occupied territory," said Tibi.

Time and again, local residents held up spent cartridges they said were fired by police and border policemen, and claimed that live ammunition was used.

The allegations were categorical-

ly denied by Northern Region Police Commander Alec Ron.

He stressed that policemen and border policemen had used riot-control equipment only, including tear gas and rubber bullets, to disperse the rioters.

The security forces, he said, had acted to protect themselves and drivers traveling along the Wadi Ara highway from the stonethrowers and petrol bombers.

Members of neighboring kibbutzim also visited Umm el-Fahm yesterday in an effort to help restore calm. A delegation from the Rabbis for Human Rights group also visited.

But the efforts did not succeed and later in the morning groups of youths began hurling stones at police and border policemen guarding the entrance to Umm el-Fahm and the main road.

Several vehicles, including at least two buses, were struck by stones and a number of policemen and border policemen were wounded. At one stage, a group of baton-waving youths started chanting "Death to the Jews."

The attacks prompted raids by security forces into Umm el-Fahm itself. This continued into the evening with police firing tear gas, rubber bullets and using water cannons to disperse the rioters.

Over a dozen people, including three policemen, were hurt and more than 20 were arrested.

SUMMIT

Continued from Page 1

"They have made a very unusual commitment," he added. "They have committed several days... to try to resolve the remaining gaps."

Before leaving Washington for Tel Aviv, Netanyahu briefed the press at Andrews Air Force Base, saying that his series of meetings with Arafat over the previous 24 hours had been "level-headed" and "thoughtful."

Netanyahu said that while he is willing to take a political risk in making a deal on the second redeployment, he would not be taking any security risks. He added that hopes the intensive meetings scheduled for mid-October would bear fruit and that an agreement would finally be reached.

A top Israeli official said the meetings next month would take place over a number of days in an intensive fashion. There was some talk of Camp David serving as a location for the talks.

The White House summit came after a surprise late-night meeting among Albright, Arafat, and Netanyahu in New York on Sunday night - the first face-to-face meeting between the Palestinian and Israeli leaders in 11 months.

In deep sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved

YEHESKEL SAHAR

The funeral will be held today, Tuesday, September 29, 1998 at 12:00 noon at the Kfar Shmaryahu cemetery.

Elie, Gideon and Miki Sahar
Annette Martin and family

With deep sorrow, I announce the passing of my dear wife

TRUDE SHARON

on September 19, 1998

She bequeathed her body to science.

Husband, Alexander Sharon
Nieces, Aviva Belz
Dina Naim

سكنا من الاصل



Gabriella, blow your horn!

A young participant sounds a blast for peace yesterday at a Tel Aviv rally by the Four Mothers movement calling for immediate withdrawal from Lebanon. (Israel Sum)

Hizbullah calls on SLA soldiers to defect

BEIRUT (AP)

Hizbullah yesterday renewed its pledge to protect South Lebanese Army soldiers who surrender and produced a defector to urge his former comrades to do so.

Hizbullah's latest offer came at a news conference in a southern suburb of Beirut at which Abbas Hussein Raslan, 28, told reporters he defected in February after serving as an SLA intelligence agent for six years.

It was not clear why Hizbullah waited so long to announce the defection of Raslan, a Shi'ite Moslem from the border village of Taiba.

Raslan said he was paid \$600 a month to provide intelligence



Abbas Hussein Raslan (AP)

from four villages. He described morale in the SLA as "low" and urged militiamen to defect.

"It's a national duty for me and for every Lebanese to join in the resistance against Israeli occupation," he said, after the news conference.

The Hizbullah's Sheikh Atallah Ibrahim, who introduced Raslan, read a prepared statement saying that the group "again calls on the agents to defect before it is too late and return to their homeland and parents and not to remain cheap tools in the hands of the Zionists."

He repeated Hizbullah's pledge to ensure the safety of any defectors.

It's obvious to all kids - if dad says "no" to any whim or scheme, you go to granddad.

This is precisely what Labor's Jerusalem branch chiefs did. They got nowhere with party chairman Ehud Barak, so they went to his ever-threatening predecessor Shimon Peres.

The Jerusalem branch boys, led by Haim Cohen, can't stomach the notion of former MK Shimon Shetreet running for the capital's mayor with Barak's endorsement.

They point to Shetreet as a divisive element, who alienates too many on the Left and who has no hope of winning anyone on the right. To them he is an electoral disaster waiting to happen. They beseeched and pestered Barak to drop his backing for Shetreet, but to no avail.

But after Barak said "no" to the Jerusalem branch, the party's elder

statesman, Peres, cheerfully obliged and came to Cohen's aid.

For Cohen, Shetreet was enough of an anathema to drive him into the open arms of arch-rival Mayor Ehud Olmert of the Likud. Peres conferred his unhesitating blessing on the alliance.

Cohen reasoned that Labor's face could be at least partially saved by splitting it. Part of Labor would be put on the winning side, according to Cohen, and spared association with the humiliating rout which Shetreet would bring.

Not many in Labor believe that Peres was swayed by Cohen's logic. Some say Peres was motivated by a personal vendetta. He could not forget that Shetreet had challenged him on the eve of the 1996 elections.

Another theory is that Peres regards Cohen as a protégé and felt he had to help him, deputy mayor, even at the price of teaming

Baram won't run for Jerusalem mayor

By AMY KLEIN and SARAH HONIG

Labor MK Uzi Baram said late last night he will not join the race for the Jerusalem mayoralty.

With only a week to go for candidates to register their lists, nearly all the parties were thrown into a tailspin yesterday by rumors Baram may decide to run on a separate Labor list, and that Labor's Jerusalem-branch secretary, Haim Cohen, might join Mayor Ehud Olmert if Baram decided not to run.

Baram made his decision after failing to secure the support of Labor Party leader Ehud Barak, to force candidate Shimon Shetreet to withdraw from the race, and to dissuade the Jerusalem Labor branch secretary Haim Cohen not to join Olmert.

Baram met with Barak late last night in Tel Aviv and the conversation quickly deteriorated into a loud quarrel, party sources said, signalling a break between the two. Baram apparently feels he was misled by Barak to make this move, a source said.

Cohen and Olmert signed an informal agreement late last night on a joint list for Olmert's United Jerusalem Party, now to include Labor Party representatives and union leaders. Olmert promised Cohen's faction four top slots on his list - 4, 6, 10, and 11. Cohen, a close ally of MK Shimon Peres, had been negotiating with the mayor despite Labor's - and Barak's - crackdown on meeting with the opposition.

"I am still a Labor man, but local elections is no place for national politics," said Cohen, who claimed the top Labor brass supports his move to Olmert. Jerusalem Municipal Workers Union boss Danny Bonfiel told Cohen: "It doesn't matter to us who you choose. The important thing is that we will be in power."

Labor-endorsed candidate Shimon Shetreet, running on the One Jerusalem list, called Baram's last-minute deliberations "unethical and immoral."

Baram had turned down repeated Labor requests that he run. The party endorsed Shetreet on a list which includes The

Third Way. Labor reaffirmed its support of Shetreet two months ago, following overtures by MK Shimon Peres and Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg toward Olmert to create a joint Likud-Labor list.

Other mayoral candidates were open to joining a Labor-led opposition to Olmert.

Meretz, which recently signed a surplus-vote agreement with One Jerusalem, had not ruled out joining Baram and criticized Barak's opposition to him.

"We can beat Olmert. An opportunity has presented itself and Barak is missing it," said Meretz leader Yossi Sarid.

Ornan Yekutieli, leader of the Meretz breakaway party Jerusalem Now, said he would definitely join Baram - and Meretz as well. "We have to create a strong secular block," Yekutieli said. "We have to get as many people as possible."

Shetreet called Cohen's defection - and Peres's political maneuverings - cheap. "It's a tough blow to the party's ideology," he said. "The combination of Labor and Likud is also bad for both parties."

Grandfather Peres gets his way

ANALYSIS

By Sarah Honig

up with Olmert.

But petty peevish or laudable loyalties would not have thrown Labor into a tizzy. What did was the fact that Peres still functions as that powerful grandfather or alternative party leader. If Barak ever says no, there is always the option of going over his head to Peres. The Peres nemesis plainly keeps on haunting Barak mercilessly.

Barak paid little heed to the quarrels in Jerusalem, until the Peres specter manifested itself yet again.

That was when MK Uzi Baram began getting frantic phone calls from party higher-ups. Baram was Labor's original choice to take Olmert on, but he got cold feet

when the polls did not auger his candidacy well. Since then Baram remarried and enjoyed friendly media exposure. It put the pink in his cheek and made him more amenable to entreaties that he save the party from the Shetreet-Cohen tug-of-war.

The pressure on Baram was awesome. He was told his very credibility is on the line and that if he shrunk back from active combat, no one in Labor would ever take him seriously.

Baram was expected to officially throw his hat in the ring on Thursday. He wanted Barak to exert all the pressure he could muster to get Shetreet out of the arena. But Shetreet was defiant, declaring that nothing would make him quit.

Barak snuck by Shetreet. Baram felt that Barak was playing the double game he was often accused of playing. The two finished off the

night with nasty verbal fisticuffs capped with Baram's announcement that he would not run.

Cohen said he was ready to support Baram, but since Barak ditched Baram, he rushed to sign his deal with Olmert.

This, say the party pundits, is what Peres had wanted him to do all along, by way of demonstrating to Barak who really runs the show. Peres in effect moved most of the Labor Jerusalem contingent to Olmert's corner, indicating to all that the party activists are at his beck and call.

At this, there is no joy in the extended Labor family.

Peres is seen as the only clan member who can rub his hands with satisfaction. Granted, he postponed his visit with the Jerusalem youngsters yesterday, but, even without having put in an appearance, everything went his way.

Weizman expresses dismay over Umm el-Fahm riots

Says country must strive for 'peaceful coexistence'

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR and news agencies

President Ezer Weizman yesterday expressed his dismay over the incidents at Umm el-Fahm, saying it was important to have peaceful coexistence between Israel's Arab and Jewish citizens.

"We have to learn to live with the Arab population in this country," Weizman said. "It is a shame there was such a flare-up. Whoever has managed to negotiate a ceasefire deserves credit."

Jordan also voiced concern yesterday about the clashes.

Officials in Amman said yesterday that Jordanian Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh summoned Ambassador Oded Eran on Sunday after dozens of demonstrators and police were hurt near Umm el-Fahm.

"They called him to express their concern," embassy spokesman Roey Gilad said.

Israeli Police said 40 protesters

and 15 police officers were hurt in the riots.

The official Jordanian news agency Petra said Tarawneh asked Eran to pass on to his government Jordan's concern "that a swift solution be found to these events."

Tarawneh called on Israel to "halt the confiscation of land in Umm el-Fahm from its legitimate owners and also to halt Israeli Police measures against the inhabitants of the town and release those who were arrested," Petra said.

Tarawneh's new government last week won a vote of confidence in parliament but not before 53 deputies in the 80-seat lower house called on him to halt normalization with Israel.



A border policeman arrests a rioter at Umm el-Fahm yesterday. (Reuters)

ANALYSIS

Continued from Page 1

Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat. White House spokesman Mike McCurry joked that Albright had held more meetings with the two leaders last weekend than Mark McGwire had hit home runs the whole baseball season.

Albright gave a faint smile. Her remarks gave no indication that she believes the series of exhaustive sessions with Netanyahu and Arafat is to end anytime soon.

Indeed, she did not go nearly as far as had her boss, Clinton, who indicated several times that a major development had occurred yesterday. Nor did she praise the dedication of the two visitors, as Clinton had.

Albright has been through it before. She has expressed her displeasure, warned, and threatened. She's made it clear that her patience, and her time, has its limits. In short, she's been burned once too often to go out on a limb again.

While Clinton said "significant progress" had been made, Albright used the term "some progress." And if Clinton did not speak of a "breakthrough," he at least indicated that one had occurred, somehow.

Albright, though, rejected the characterization, saying that "the term 'breakthrough,' I think, gets overused. And I have tried very hard to be straight with you about what is going on. I think it was an important meeting, important because they were here together and they agreed on the importance of the urgency of it."

She then went on to refer to the frustration of dealing with the two sides, speaking of how "there have been certain times" in 1998 when "one would want to move and the other one would be on a slow walk, and vice versa."

While Clinton all but declared that an agreement is there for the taking in the coming weeks, and said he hopes it can be reached when the leaders return here in several weeks, Albright clung to the administration's line during this year's less optimistic days: that there is a sense of "urgency" to reach a deal, especially with the May 1999 deadline looming for the expiration of the interim accord.

If the two were not the good news-bad news of American diplomacy, they certainly represented the put-on-a-happy-political-face approach versus the more sober,

realistic diplomatic visage. It was a stark public dichotomy.

Some in the increasingly cynical White House press corps foresaw Albright's comments, wondering what had actually been achieved to justify Clinton's upbeat evaluation - and whether Clinton had wanted Netanyahu and Arafat here simply to showcase his possible Middle East trophies just as Congress is preparing to consider whether to impeach him over the Monica Lewinsky affair.

Asked what warranted the summit with Clinton, Albright said that it was important for Netanyahu and Arafat to understand "the extent to which we all, and the president particularly, wants to see a resolution to this."

While underlining the US's desire to bring its year-long diplomatic effort to fruition, it is also true that in the context of Clinton's domestic predicament, Albright's response could be read another way: Clinton needs this - badly.

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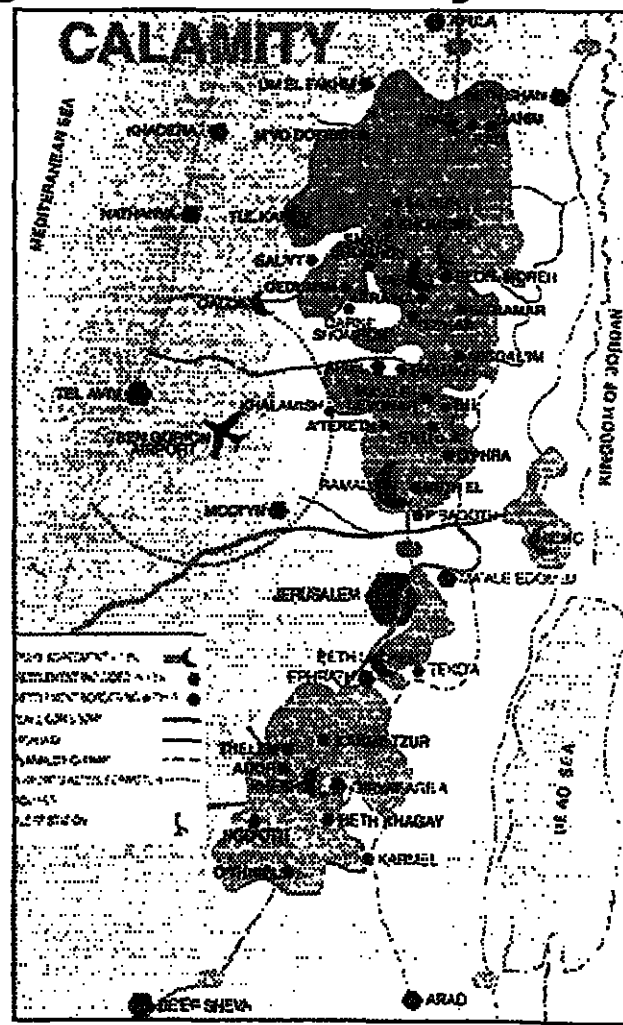
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NEWS

in brief

Man gets two months for stoning police

David Briesel, 22, of Jerusalem was sentenced yesterday to two months in prison, plus eight months suspended for three years, for throwing rocks at border policemen during a demonstration by haredim on Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan two years ago. In passing sentence, Jerusalem Magistrate's Court Judge Yitzhak Inbar said that "the throwing of a stone is all too similar to the use of a firearm." However, he also ruled that, since no one was hurt in the incident, Briesel's prison term may be served by community service. *Itm*

Biran discusses security ties with Swiss

Defense Ministry Director-General Ilan Biran met yesterday with Toni J. Wicki, Swiss chief for armaments and director-general for security relations with Israel. They discussed security relations between the two countries. Biran thanked Wicki for the Swiss offer to supply gas masks and anti-chemical warfare medications during the recent Gulf crisis.

Wicki also met with Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and other officials. In a press release issued by the Swiss Federal Council, it noted that Wicki decided to go on with his visit only after receiving clarification from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu about the contents of his letter to the World Jewish Congress regarding Swiss involvement with Holocaust victims funds. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

First police inspector-general dies

Yehezkel Sahar, who served as the country's first police inspector-general, died yesterday at 91. Serving from the founding of the state until 1958, he headed the police longer than any of his successors. He will be buried in the Kfar Shmaryahu cemetery at noon today. *Itm*

Cornerstone laid for Holocaust memorial

The cornerstone of the biggest memorial for Austrian Holocaust victims was laid yesterday by Vienna Mayor Michael Haeupel. The memorial is part of a reconstruction project of the historical Judenplatz (The Jews' Square) in Vienna's old town. The project also includes the preservation of the excavated first synagogue and its integration into a museum and a new layout for the Judenplatz area. The Holocaust monument, designed by British artist Rachel Whiteread, will consist of cement cubes shaped in the form of a closed library, in memory of the 65,000 Austrian Jews murdered. It will be built on top of the excavation site of the first synagogue, where in 1421, at the end of the Jewish expulsion from Vienna, a group of Jews committed mass suicide. The synagogue was demolished and its stones were used to build part of Vienna's University. *Eldad Beck*

Headmaster named for new Hebrew Academy

The first step in the creation of the American Hebrew Academy has been taken with the appointment of Los Angeles educator Dr. Alvin Mars as the founding headmaster. The academy, to be located in Greensboro, North Carolina, will be the first Jewish boarding prep school in North America under non-Orthodox auspices. This week Mars announced his resignation as director of the Brandeis-Bardin Institute near Los Angeles to run the coed academy, which will accept 9th to 12th grade pupils from all Jewish denominations. Classes are due to start in the year 2000. The "intellectually vigorous" curriculum will combine Jewish and secular studies, said Mars. *Tom Tugend*

Mofaz issues warning on missiles

Iran's weapons program shows the IDF must be prepared to carry out pre-emptive strikes, Chief of General Staff Lt. Gen. Shaul Mofaz said yesterday, three days after Iran paraded its new medium-range Shihab-3 missile capable of reaching Israel. He said Iran is a long-term threat.

"First of all, the response of the State of

Israel is its deterrence capability and its ability to deter states of this sort from carrying out threats of ground-to-ground missiles and unconventional weapons," Mofaz told Israel Radio.

"Beyond that, I believe we are preparing the response and if and when we'll need it, we will be able also to provide the

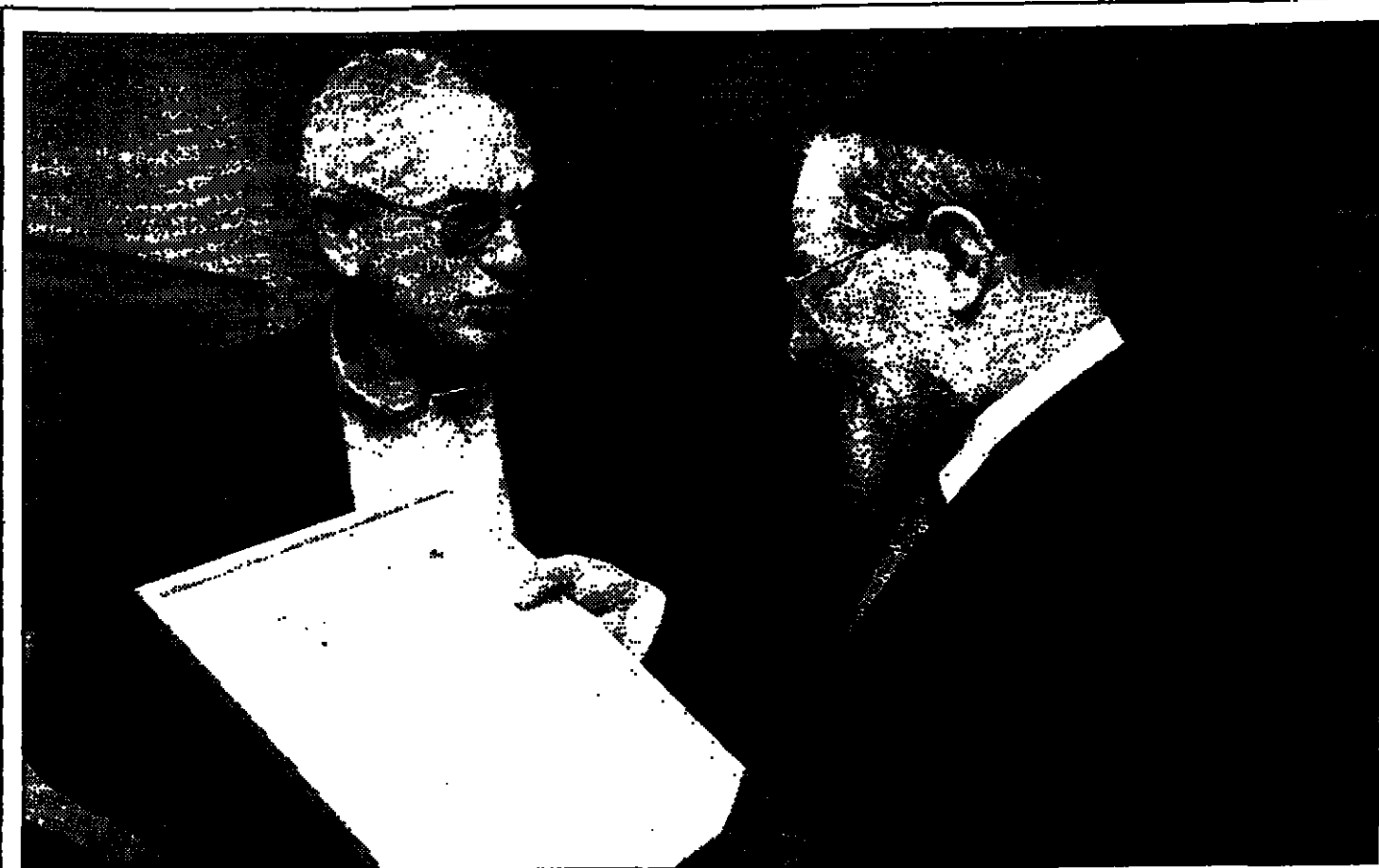
response." Israel says Iran also has a nuclear weapons program and could assemble its first bomb within a few years.

Asked about comments on Sunday by Labor MK Ephraim Sneh, who spoke of Israel's need to prepare a conventional first strike, Mofaz said a "pre-emptive strike is a

matter that the Israeli army must be ready for and, if required, it must be capable of doing it."

He added that unconventional arms "in the hands of an extremist state with an extremist regime could pose a long-term threat to the State of Israel."

(Reuters)



Kol Nidrei

Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau examines a copy of the Kol Nidrei prayer written by inmates of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp for Yom Kippur 1944, presented to him by Simcha Stein, director of the Beit Lohamei Hagetaot Holocaust museum. *(Brian Hendler)*

Clinton: Yom Kippur liturgy gives me inspiration

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - President Bill Clinton said in an interview published yesterday that the Yom Kippur liturgy is a great inspiration to him as he deals with his personal failings that led to the deepest crisis in his presidency.

"What has really been helpful to me in the last several months, and

particularly in the last few weeks, is religious guidance that I have been given about atonement from the Yom Kippur liturgy, to remind me that while it is unusual for the president to be in a public situation like this, the fundamental truth is that the human condition - with its frailties and propensity to sin - is something I do share with others," Clinton said in an inter-

view last week with Trudy Feldman, a White House-based journalist, that was published in *The Washington Post*.

Clinton's comments marked the second time in a week that he has made direct reference to Yom Kippur in discussing his personal fallout from the Monica Lewinsky affair.

Clinton also appeared particu-

ly intrigued by the concept of one's slate being wiped clean for the following year following atonement for this year's sins.

"Yes, in the Jewish tradition, the slate is wiped clean and you start anew," he said. "With real repentance, I'm told, the sins are effectively removed. Christians, too, believe that when God forgives a sin, it is as if He forgets the sin."

Hamas keeps mum on reported collaborator

By STEVE RODAN and MOHAMMED NAJIB

Hamas leaders refused yesterday to respond to plans by the Palestinian Authority to present the confession of a detained member of the Islamic movement that he collaborated with the General Security Services to help capture and kill his colleagues.

The issue is sensitive and no Hamas leader will comment on this, a Hamas leader in Gaza told *The Jerusalem Post*. "This [confession] is unusual and not a trend."

The Hamas leaders were responding to a report in *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that PA Preventive Security Apparatus chief Col. Jibril Rajoub had obtained a video confession from a 31-year-old Hamas member, Zuhair Khassib, that he had worked with the GSS since 1987.

But the Hamas leaders did dismiss the report that Rajoub had captured a GSS collaborator within Hamas, a departure from its previous insistence that its ranks were bereft of informers.

Ismail Abu Shanab, a Hamas leader in Gaza, said the arrest and purported confession by Khassib will not damage relations between the Islamic movement and the PA.

"We regard the conflict, in all of its security, military, political and cultural elements, between the Israelis and us to be that of an occupying state and a resistant people."

Abu Shanab said he hoped the PA will formally notify Hamas of the arrest and Khassib's confession. He pledged that Hamas will cooperate with any investigation.

"We would be happy with any step that would purify Palestinian society from the Israeli spies and consider this as integral work," Abu Shanab said.

Hamas leaders said they were aware of the constant efforts by the GSS to recruit informers within the Islamic movement. But none of them would confirm the arrest of Khassib.

A-G slams

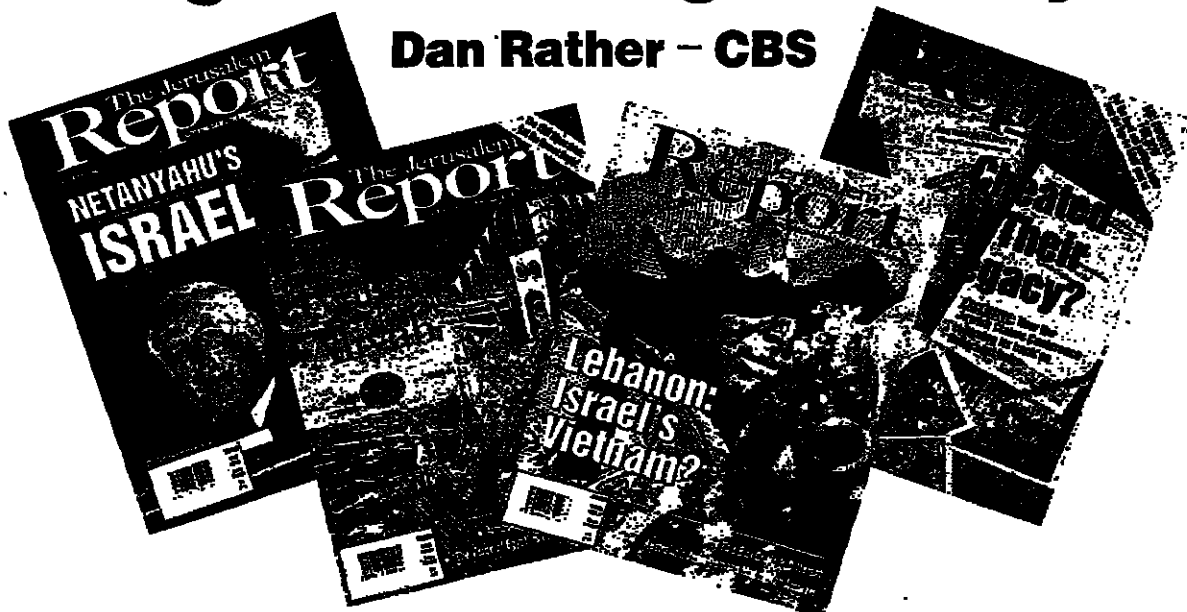
By SA'SHEVA TSUM

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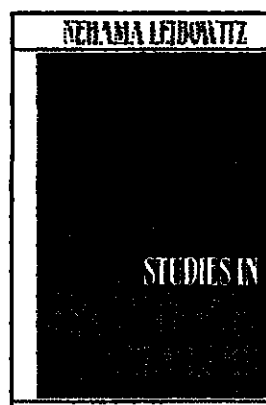
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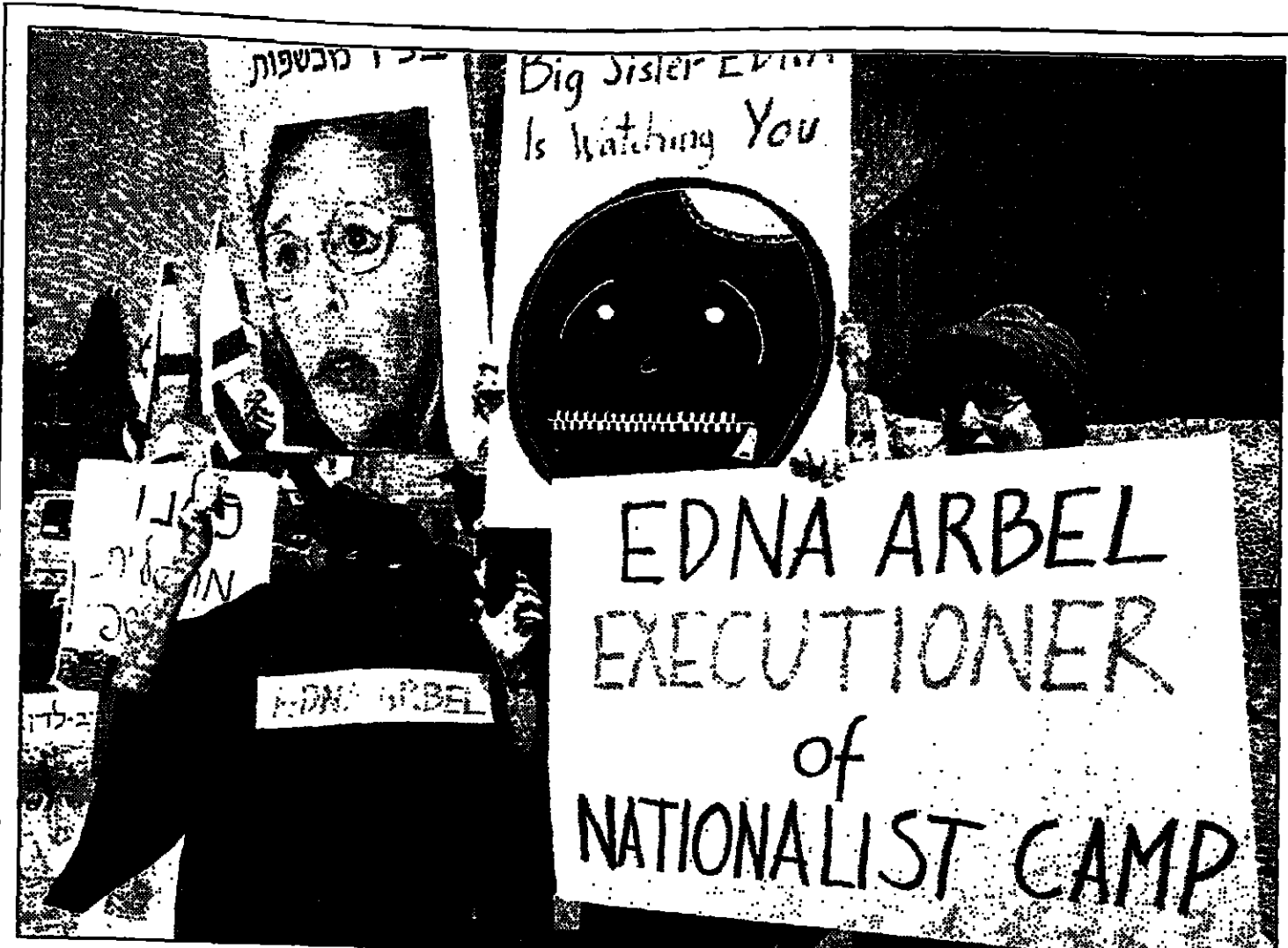
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סניף מרכז



Members of the Women in Green movement protest outside Jerusalem District Court yesterday against State Attorney Edna Arbel (poster) and the sentencing of Margalit Har-Shefi a day earlier to nine months in prison for not acting to prevent the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin. (Brian Hoadler)

A-G slams Women in Green protest

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

The country could be dragged into anarchy if court decisions are not respected, Attorney General Elyakim Rubinstein said yesterday. He was condemning a demonstration by Women in Green at which the courts and State Prosecutor's Office were attacked following the sentencing of Margalit Har-Shefi for failing to prevent the murder of Yitzhak Rabin.

Some 40 members of the organization gathered outside the Justice Ministry in Jerusalem, carrying placards calling for the sentencing of State Attorney Edna Arbel.

"Women in Green cannot remain silent at

this patent example of a continuing witch-hunt of opponents of Oslo, under the pretext of seeking to punish those unfairly thought to be responsible for the Rabin murder," said Nadia Matar, who organized the demonstration.

"Arbel's choice of whom to prosecute, and on what basis, seems to depend on criteria that make a mockery of the basic concept of justice for all," she claimed.

The demonstrators also held placards calling for the trial of former General Security Service agent Avishai Raviv and former GSS chief Carmi Gillon.

Rubinstein later issued a statement saying that Arbel is doing a professional job and

would not be drawn into an improper style of reaction.

"The case was decided in court and the court's decision has to be respected," Rubinstein said. "If not, we could be dragged into a state of anarchy. The accused, of course, has the right to appeal the sentence."

While everyone is entitled to freedom of expression, Rubinstein added, some of the remarks about Arbel and others at the demonstration were not in good taste nor did they abide by the rules of decency toward public servants. "The remarks hardly garnered respect for the demonstrators on the eve of Yom Kippur," Rubinstein remarked.

Teens convicted in killing Hebron Arab

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH, AMY KLEIN and Nim

Two teenagers from the youth village in Beit Haggal, south of Hebron, were convicted yesterday of killing Abdul Majid Abu Turki, 48, of Hebron, who was hit in the head by one of them with a wooden board he was holding out the window of a van on June 16.

Jerusalem District Court Judge Zvi Cohen found the youth who actually wielded the board guilty of manslaughter, and his companion, who handed him the board, guilty of causing a death by negligence.

In another case, 28-year-old Uriel Maoz of Kfar Adumim was remanded for five days yesterday after being arrested on suspicion of shooting and wounding a Palestinian youth after stones were thrown at his car on September 15.

Also yesterday, the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court released Avshalom Ladan of Dolev on bail. He had been arrested on suspicion he had fatally shot a

Palestinian teenager when his car was stoned on a West Bank road nearly two weeks ago.

In his ruling on the Abu Turki killing, Cohen said the companion was not guilty of manslaughter because he didn't know what his friend was going to do.

Nevertheless, he said, he should have expected that his friend might kill somebody by holding a board out the window of a car traveling at 70-80 kph.

The driver of van that was returning the boys to Beit Haggal from their places of work was acquitted of the two charges against him — causing a death by negligence and fleeing the scene of an accident.

The judge ruled that even though he saw the youth stick the board out the window and Abu Turki collapse, but drove off, the incident cannot be seen as an traffic accident, which would have required him to stop.

Sentencing was deferred to a later date.

Judea and Samaria Police spokesman Opher Sivan said police arrested Maoz yesterday, following

an intensive investigation. Sivan said that Maoz was traveling in a company-owned car near the village of Kfar Zaira when he was stoned. He opened fire at the stone throwers, wounding a youth in the leg.

"The suspect fled the scene and failed to notify the authorities," said Sivan.

Ladani, suspected of shooting to death a Palestinian teenager and wounding another in Beitunya almost two weeks ago, was released on condition that for the next 21 days he drives to Dolev via bypass roads and avoids the main road which runs through Beitunya.

Judge Uri Ben-Dor permitted Ladani to enter the territories because police could not demonstrate there has been specific threats against Ladani's life.

"The Bail Law was not created to limit the personal safety of the suspect when it is not talking about preventing him from committing a crime, but about preventing others from committing a crime towards him," Ben-Dor said.

Ministry: Meuhedet made erroneous claim to members

By JUDY SIEGEL

The Health Ministry will send a letter of complaint to Kupat Holim Meuhedet for claiming in a mailed message to its more than 500,000 members that only about half of the health taxes they pay actually reach the health fund.

The message, signed by Meuhedet director-general Uzi Salant, was dispatched to inform members that starting in October they must pay NIS 15 per person per quarter for consulting a medical specialist and that co-payments for medications are also increasing.

These levies were mandated by the Health Ministry and Treasury, and affect members of all health funds (although each has a slightly different formula).

As an explanation for the need to charge members directly besides the 4.8% monthly health tax on income, Salant wrote that "there is a large gap between health tax payments to the state by residents and the allocation transferred to Kupat Holim Meuhedet."

"For example, an average family of four with two salaried workers has NIS 1,000 deducted from their paychecks each month. But the amount transferred to

the health fund is only NIS 504."

When this paragraph was pointed out by The Jerusalem Post to Health Ministry deputy director-general for economics Gabi Bin-Nun, he said the statement was false and misleading, as "the National Insurance Institute transfers all the money it collects as health taxes — except a negligible amount as overhead — to the health funds, according to the capitation scheme (taking number of members and their age into consideration). Neither the NII nor the Treasury withhold any of that."

But Bin-Nun added that health taxes total NIS 7 billion a year, while the basket of health services costs some NIS 16b.

The Treasury is supposed to fill the gap, especially after it cancelled the employers' parallel tax, but the Finance Ministry doesn't make up the entire deficit because of differences of interpretation.

Bin-Nun said he would like Salant to send a correction to members. The health fund spokesman said "the message was written on the basis of data we have. If the Health Ministry provides new data, we will be happy to react in response to this."

ADL: Neo-Nazi National Alliance most dangerous hate group in US

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

The most dangerous organized hate group in the US is the neo-Nazi National Alliance, whose members have plotted acts of violence to press their anti-Jewish, anti-black, and anti-government agenda, according to a recent report released by the Anti-Defamation League.

The organization, led by William Pierce, is now the largest and most active neo-Nazi body, according to an ADL spokesman. According to the ADL, "its propaganda appears to have inspired others to carry out murder, bombings and robberies."

The ADL report, "Explosion of

Hate: The Growing Danger of the National Alliance," says the group has 16 active cells, and has been active in at least 26 states, especially in Ohio, Florida, Michigan, New York, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia, and New Mexico.

"The National Alliance is an alliance of bigots and bombers thriving on hate," Abraham H. Foxman, ADL national director, said at a recent press conference in Washington at which the report was released. "What makes William Pierce and his group so dangerous is their organization, discipline, and fanatic belief that they have the right to carry out acts of violence in order to realize their vision of a world free of

Jews, blacks, and democracy."

According to the ADL, Pierce's novel *The Turner Diaries*, about an Aryan takeover of the world, may have inspired Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh. Foxman called that bombing "a tragic wake-up call," adding: "The American people must be made aware that the National Alliance is not some insignificant fringe group. They are an army committed to violence and an ideology to undermine our democracy in favor of a Hitlerite world."

ADL national chairman Howard P. Berkowitz explained that the organization makes wide use of the Internet to pursue its aims and recruit members. Besides its own web site,

"the National Alliance's insidious message is also injected unsolicited into chat rooms and e-mail."

According to the ADL study, the group has about 1,000 active members, with thousands more listening to its radio broadcasts.

The ADL said the organization could be linked to several criminal incidents, including one in December 1995, in which two soldiers stationed at Fort Bragg, who had read the organization's propaganda, murdered a black couple.

In Jackson, Mississippi, another admirer of Pierce's novel went on a shooting rampage, killing a black man and wounding seven others. Other incidents included planned bombings.

Greens hit Bank Hapoalim for highway plan

By LIAT COLLINS

Carrying signs saying, "Bank Hapoalim is financing a socio-economic disaster," two members of the Green Action environmental group yesterday rappelled down the bank's building in Tel Aviv's Dizengoff Center protesting the Cross-Israel Highway project.

The two rappellers and four other demonstrators out of the 30 or so present were arrested.

Group spokesman Roni Armon called on the bank to reconsider its financing of the highway, which he said would result in increased road accidents, pollution, and environmental damage.

The protesters tried to persuade

Bank Hapoalim customers to freeze contact with the bank until it had reconsidered its involvement.

On Sunday, a new coalition, the Committee for Public Transport, held a meeting in Jerusalem to demand that the government reexamine its decision to build the highway.

The highway, if built, would be the largest public works project in Israel's history and cost some \$1 billion. The coalition is calling instead for huge investment in mass transit.

It is directing its strongest criticism at Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman for providing government guarantees for generous bank loans to a consortium of foreign and local investors who won bids to build the

road. The government has also apparently committed to making up any shortfall in the guaranteed annual profits on the operation of the toll road.

They noted the critical report on the highway project by the state comptroller which also cited the financial problems related to the planned toll road.

Arye Shabat, spokesman for the Cross-Israel Highway Company rejected the groups' claims and said a rail system could complement the highway, not replace it.

He also said there is now expected to be even greater use of the highway and, under the agreement, the government would split the extra profit with the franchise owners.

Local firm suing 'Bible Code'

By SHI DAVIDI

The Israeli software company which developed the program used in the international best-seller *The Bible Code* is suing the book's author and publisher for over \$18 million in lost profits.

Torah Soft Ltd. has filed suit in the Supreme Court of the State of New York against *Bible Code* author Michael Drosnin and Simon & Schuster Inc. for breach of contract, unjust enrichment, and associated charges.

The lawsuit claims that Drosnin breached a verbal contract with Dr. Yochanan Spielberg, Torah Soft's main shareholder, when Torah Soft's name, e-mail address, and fax number were not put in a prominent spot in the book, and that Spielberg's program, *Bible Search*, was not credited.

"When I was working with Mr. Drosnin, it was promised to me that, as part of the publication, my program would be publicized. When the book finally did come out, there was no mention of the program or my company and I was very disappointed there was no mention. There are 99 printouts of mine in the book with no mention of where they came from," Spielberg said.

"This book could not have been written without the software," said Eric Sherby, Torah Soft's lawyer. "The chutzpa of both defendants to publish the book without credit, without contact info is mind-boggling."

Sherby said he consulted with a marketing expert to determine the \$18 million lost-profits figure.

Before filing suit in New York, Spielberg tried to bring the matter before a rabbinical court, because he was suing a Jew. After Drosnin ignored all summonses, the reli-

gious court allowed Spielberg to pursue Drosnin in the secular court. Torah Search also intends to file a

separate copyright infringement lawsuit for some \$70 million against Drosnin and Simon & Schuster.

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Campaign superhighways

BONN — In a famous election movie clip for Germany's Social Democrats, political leaders stand on the *Star Trek* transmission pad ready to be beamed into the future.

On the command "beam them up" the launch pad fuzzes out and there are cries from the computers of "not enough energy, insufficient energy!" When the smoke clears, all have gone except for a lonely, overweight Helmut Kohl in a large silver space suit. A voice-over says: "The future — not everyone is fit for it." Gerhard Schröder's party replayed the clip on giant screens at their final rally in the Berlin Velodrome last week to loud laughter and applause from a crowd of 10,000. Indeed, he who laughs last, laughs loudest.

But Gerhard — you'd better be ready for the future.

After ten days of planes and trains, back and forth across Germany on the election campaign trail, it is hard to say that anyone can get a handle on what is modern Germany.

Is Germany modern. Nineties style? Big yes, and big no.

After recent trips to Romania and Bulgaria, I was at least related about taking a laptop computer to Germany.

Every phone line in the other two states laughed and screamed in derision every time a modem was connected to them, frustrating my desire to transmit *Column One* on the run. But Germany — an advanced technological civilization — of course, that would be different. There's the rub.

Firstly, Germany has several different varieties of phone plug, all mutually incompatible with our simple Israeli system and other European systems.

Most stores carry endless varieties of cables and adaptors to connect this to that and that to the other, so the problem can be solved by carrying a bag of spaghetti. Don't ask whatever happened to European Union "harmonization."

Then there are the phone lines. For some reason to do with a mixture of pulse and tone dialing, Bezeq and Globus phone cards do not work on automatic in Germany. A friendly operator comes to the rescue eventually — unless it's late at night when only insomniac journalists and phone-sex freaks are prowling the lines.

Connecting a mobile computer is a nightmare. Arriving at each different hotel meant hours wasted fiddling with cables, phone plugs, modem settings.

Hotel room phones don't have dial tones, which the modern needs to dial. A young American computer geek eventually informed us that "entering X3 in the modern init string disables the dialtone requirement." Great — I'm just a simple journalist.

Some but not all, of CompuServe's access phone numbers work. Those that do, quite

often they don't. If they do, one can get and send e-mail but connecting to the Internet by laptop dial-up defeated the entire press corps. Some became experts in tracking down Internet cafes in different cities.

For the rest, angry, complaining and frustrated, they were left to file stories by fax on reams of handwritten pages. It was back to the cleft stick in Europe's engineering powerhouse.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

Some hotels were completely unhelpful about computer connections. Look at it this way — they charge five marks to fax a page. Say, ten pages a day per foreign journalist, multiplied by several thousand on the campaign trail.

A working computer connection goes out on a local call, netting the hotel zero times several thousand.

Yet, on the magnificent high-speed trains that connect German cities, each seat has a power point for a computer, so one can tap merrily away while cruising the Bavarian countryside. (No on-line connection yet, but it's a start.) However, on the fully-booked trains, we spotted few laptops being used.

It is easy to see why Schröder thinks Germany needs modernization, although most Germans still think of their country as one of the world's most advanced.

It is, of course, the traditional engineering and heavy industry that rebuilt Germany. But the country is suffering from what the Social Democrats call "reform blockage," a typically Germanic image of constipation. Part of the problem of the unemployed is the sheer bureaucratic impossibility of being mobile. Some federal states do not recognize qualifications earned in other states; even teachers can find their certificates worthless in some states.

German love of order and hatred of change and surprise — which they themselves readily own up to — is totally unsuited for a new economy based on mobility, services and information technologies.

Even among the more enlightened followers of the new chancellor, the odd German notion that the Internet needs proper controls and rules imposed on it before it can be released to the unthinking masses seems deeply embedded.

The idea that information wants to be free still sounds like anarchy to most German minds. So it may not just be Kohl that isn't fit enough.

Another SPD poster depicted a T-Rex dinosaur with the caption that other great beasts had to become extinct because they couldn't adapt to change. It was meant to be Kohl, of course. But Schröder will need to be careful to ensure that the entire German bureaucracy, welfare and control systems, and even infrastructure, do not add up to the real dinosaur slouching to Berlin for the year 2000.

Kohl: A political master who reshaped Europe

The last German leader from the generation that lived through World War II, Helmut Kohl pushed for European integration as the best way to prevent future wars.

Robert Mahoney reports.

BONN (Reuters) — Helmut Kohl once told Mikhail Gorbachev that Germany's capitalist and communist halves would one day flow together as inexorably as the River Rhine.

The German chancellor, who grew up and governed within sight of the legendary river, was right.

He caught the tide that swept away the Soviet empire to ride into the history books as Germany's longest-serving chancellor since Otto von Bismarck.

Mocked as a provincial hick by the Bonn establishment when he first entered the chancellery in 1982, Kohl scythed down opponents at home and abroad to leave his considerable stamp on Europe's geography and institutions.

Leaders such as Britain's Margaret Thatcher and France's Francois Mitterrand who mistook his affability and country bumpkin air for a lack of political sophistication learned to rue their mistake.

Kohl, 68, was a master of political intrigue who knew the value of personal contact. He was a tireless practitioner of telephone diplomacy, ringing the White House or the Kremlin at all hours to iron out wrinkles in the fabric of East-West relations.

It was beside the Rhine that Kohl laid the diplomatic groundwork that allowed him to steamroller French and British objections to German reunification after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

Kohl was the last German leader of the political generation that lived through World War II. He was 15 when the war ended, and was marked for life by the misery that Nazism had wrought.

He dreamt of a united, democratic Germany at the heart of a unified Europe. But he knew he would have to tread carefully to avoid French and British suspicions of resurgent German nationalism.

He could not have known that East Germany, the frontline state of Stalinism, would crumble as fast as it did in 1989-90.

But he had already planted the seed of a unified Germany in the mind of US President George Bush during a cruise on the Rhine in May 1989. When the Wall fell in November that year, Kohl knew he could count on US support.

Kohl realized Gorbachev was also on board during a visit by the Soviet leader to the Rhineland chancellery. When Kohl remarked that German reunification was as inevitable as the flow of the river, Gorbachev did not object.

Within a year, Kohl had Mitterrand on side and the two men laid the foundation for the Maastricht Treaty on closer European union.

The Roman Catholic son of a minor tax official from the nonde-



Helmut Kohl, then chancellor of Germany, at a press conference during a visit to Israel in 1984. (Isaac Harari)

script Rhine port of Ludwigshafen had shaped the end of the 20th century, leaving a reunified Germany, with its capital in Berlin, as the strongest power in a Europe with common institutions and about to launch a single currency.

"A MAN like Helmut Kohl is far above the reputation which he has been given, notably by my Social Democratic friends," said Mitterrand the Socialist.

"He is a man of formidable common sense, with great tenacity, lots of authority and faith in Europe."

Mitterrand added in 1994, towards the end of his 14 years in office.

Kohl saw Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) as the best way for Germany to assert its economic and political might without alarming its neighbors, east or west.

His attachment to EMU was as much emotional as intellectual. European integration, for his generation, was the way to avoid another war.

The loss of his soldier brother, and his evacuation to Bavaria to avoid the Allied bombing of

Ludwigshafen, scarred him. He later named the first of his two sons Walter, after his slain brother, to honor a promise to his distraught father.

Aged 15, he walked home 400 km in his Hitler Youth uniform from Berchtesgaden, site of Hitler's Eagle's Nest, to his parents' home.

He remembers the dreadful hunger, his craving for potatoes, and the kindness of American soldiers. The war robbed him of his childhood, shattered his family and opened his eyes to the horrors of unbridled nationalism.

Kohl joined the conservative Christian Democratic Union in 1946 before his political mentors, Konrad Adenauer and Ludwig Erhard, set about building Germany's economic miracle from the rubble of fascism.

He earned a doctorate in history at Heidelberg University and was the youngest member of the Rhineland-Palatinate state assembly when he entered it in 1959.

A decade later, he was the state premier and on his way to the top. He saw his political mission as building on the Adenauer-Erhard legacy. He surpassed his beloved Adenauer's record as modern Germany's longest-serving leader.

He first ran for chancellor in 1976, narrowly losing to the SPD's Helmut Schmidt. He stood aside in 1980 as Franz Josef Strauss, the most stirring orator on the right, made his own unsuccessful bid for the top.

Kohl finally made it in 1982 when the tiny liberal party, the Free Democrats, deserted Schmidt and formed a government with him.

KOHL was lambasted but has outlasted most of his critics.

He likes to compare himself to a marathon runner, who comes good in the last lap. The athletic comparison is ironic in one who is universally known as "die Birne," ("the pear") a reference to his shape. He weighs an estimated 135 kg, and stands a towering 1.93 meters tall.

Kohl, while encouraging Germans to know and acknowledge their Nazi past, sought to restore pride and patriotism, honoring figures such as the "Iron Chancellor" Bismarck and Frederick the Great of Prussia.

He even took to referring to the German "Vaterland" or fatherland, an expression shunned in the immediate post-Hitler era. Influenced by Mitterrand, he carefully tended the Franco-German alliance, the bedrock of the growing European community.

As the leaders of the 1980s left or were pushed from the political stage, Kohl emerged as the main player in European summitry, bro-

kering or imposing compromises as national self-interest deadlocked the already cumbersome machinery of European decision-making.

EUROPE'S earthy elder statesman, once described as the "chancellor in a cardigan," also enjoyed a pivotal role in East-West relations as the Soviet empire crumbled.

He ignored foreign and monetary policy experts in his own camp who warned of the political, social and economic costs of swallowing East Germany, a decayed, totalitarian state.

Emotion, as much as logic, moved him to give 17 million impoverished East Germans the mighty deutschmark in exchange for their wallpaper currency.

His politics of the grand gesture carried the day even if Germany is still paying the bill in terms of unemployment and stultifying taxes for transferring about 1 trillion marks (\$595 billion) to the east.

When he visited the east German city of Dresden in December 1990, he was borne aloft by a chorus of adulation and made up his mind to push for reunification.

"December 19 in Dresden was the most striking experience for me," he said later. "It all became clear."

The cheers lasted until the cost of reunification, the economic equivalent of the United States absorbing Mexico, sank in: soaring taxes and economic stagnation in the west, massive layoffs and social upheaval in the east.

Kohl promised that the east would flourish. It didn't. He promised to halve unemployment by 2000. The jobless lines doubled.

He scraped in to win re-election in 1994 largely because the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) fielded a lackluster candidate, Rudolf Scharping.

By 1998 the electorate had tired of the man who was seen as living in the past. A whole generation had grown up knowing no other leader than Kohl and wanted change. They acknowledged his international standing but wanted someone who would concentrate on domestic problems.

Kohl looked stung by accusations that he had neglected domestic issues. He had never been loved by the west German electorate but he did expect gratitude for his achievement as helping secure Europe's longest peace.

"He is respected in the CDU like an old bear. The first time he makes a serious mistake the pack will set upon him," said biographer Klaus Dreher, before the election.

"He can only go on as long as he is a winner."

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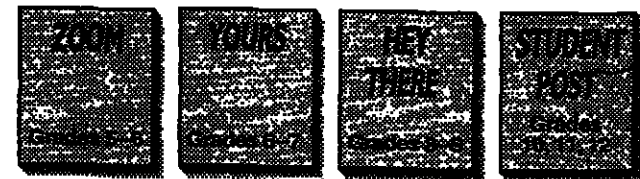
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Schroeder approaches Greens about forming coalition

By ANNE THOMPSON

BONN (AP) — Gerhard Schröder, Germany's future chancellor, said yesterday his center-left Social Democrats will begin formal talks Friday on forming a government with the environmentalist Greens after ousting Chancellor Helmut Kohl in a sweeping vote for change.

Such a coalition would be the most radical in postwar Germany and a test of the Greens' ability to curb their ideals to cooperate with a more mainstream party.

The conservative Kohl, who during 16 years in power oversaw the reunification of Germany and helped usher Europe toward economic union, was no match Sunday for the fresh face of Schröder, a Social Democrat 14 years Kohl's junior.

In a stinging humiliation for the West's longest-serving leader, Kohl and his Christian Democrats won just 35 percent of the vote, which translates to a loss of 49 of the 294 seats it held in the old parliament.

"This is a hard evening for me and for us all," Kohl said in conceding defeat. "I wish Herr Schröder the best of luck and a successful time in office."

Now it's up to Schröder — whose Social Democrats won 41% of the vote — to make good on pledges to end unemployment, stick above 10%, and to carry out tax and economic reforms.

The Social Democrats held informal talks overnight with the Greens, which won 6.7%. With the Greens, a Social Democratic-led government would command a 21-seat majority in the 669-seat parliament.

During the election, the Greens campaigned on platforms that outraged some Germans and amused others: raising gas prices to \$3 per



Chancellor-elect Gerhard Schröder addresses a news conference yesterday.

(Reuters)

liter, introducing a 100 kph speed limit on the autobahn.

These ideas were unlikely to rock a future government, but the

two parties may struggle over nuclear energy and military policies.

Schröder was beaming and

giddy yesterday during his first post-election press conference, jokingly deferring tough economic questions to his likely finance

minister, party chief Oskar Lafontaine.

He became serious, though, in addressing concerns about what concessions the Social Democrats might have to make to secure cooperation from the pacifist wing of the Greens.

"The Greens are going to have to prepare for a clear and tough round of talks," Schröder said.

Schröder said Germany's foreign policy would remain constant, addressing anxieties about how the pacifist wing of the Greens might affect the country's role in NATO and in international security.

He said Germany's role in NATO was not in question.

The Social Democrats will try to reach agreement with the Greens within 30 days.

Germany's constitution provides no deadline for forming a government, but parliament must convene by October 27. The parliament will then elect a chancellor, in this case Schröder, who will in turn designate a cabinet and coalition.

The Kohl government remains as a caretaker until the new parliament convenes.

The Greens have warned the Social Democrats not to try to shore up a new government by bringing in other parties, including the liberal Free Democrats, Kohl's junior coalition partners. They won 6.2%.

"Our signal is clear: according to us there can only be negotiations with one party," said Heide Rühle, a Greens Party leader.

Schröder has ruled out including the ex-communist Party of Democratic Socialism, which won enough votes to stay in parliament.

Many in the west view the party as a troubling remnant of the former communist East German state.

WORLD in brief

Malaysia police break up new protest

KUALA LUMPUR (Reuters) — Malaysian riot police wielding batons arrested several dozen protesters yesterday while breaking up a fresh anti-government demonstration in the heart of the capital.

Several thousand protesters called for Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad to step down and shouted slogans in favor of detained dissident leader Anwar Ibrahim before riot police intervened. Witnesses said police beat several dozen protesters after detaining them.

It was the fifth demonstration in Kuala Lumpur since September 20, when sacked finance minister Anwar led 30,000 protesters through the streets of the capital. Anwar was arrested on the same day.

Yeltsin ditches some reformers

MOSCOW (Reuters) — Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov's stop-start government lurched forward yesterday when President Boris Yeltsin reappointed Farit Gazizullin Russia's privatization chief but ditched tax service chief Boris Fyodorov and deputy premier Viktor Khristenko, two reformers left from the previous cabinet.

The presidential press office said Yeltsin and Primakov had made some headway filling cabinet posts at a Kremlin meeting and more names could be announced later in the day.

Reno back at work after fainting

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — US Attorney-General Janet Reno, pronounced fit by her doctors, checked out of a local hospital and returned to work yesterday after suffering her second fainting spell in less than a year.

The Justice Department said Reno, 60, fainted Sunday for a few seconds at a Maryland church service. She said in a statement she had a good night's sleep at Georgetown University Medical Center and looked forward to returning to work.

UNRWA's Beirut office accused of corruption

BEIRUT (AP) — Already beset by financial burdens, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, which cares for 3.5 million Palestinian refugees, faces a new problem — corruption allegations.

Wolfgang Plaza, Beirut director of UNRWA, was dismissed earlier this month as allegations of wrongdoing at the agency's Lebanon offices became public.

An Amman-based UNRWA liaison officer said Plaza was trying to uncover "issues relating to building some schools."

"So far, such allegations were not proved," the liaison officer, Maher Nasser, said in Amman. He did not elaborate.

Beirut's *Al-Nahar* newspaper quoted sources as saying Plaza may have been dismissed when he began to investigate wrongdoings, or that he blew the whistle after UNRWA did not renew his contract, which expires October 14.

Report: Sharon Stone pregnant

NEW YORK (AP) — She's played a woman on death row, a western gunslinger and a steamy femme fatale, and now a report says Sharon Stone is preparing for a new, real-life role: Mom. Friends of the actress said she is in the first trimester of a pregnancy, the *New York Post* reported yesterday, relying on unidentified sources.

A representative for Stone denied the reported pregnancy. Stone, 40, who became a star after a steamy role in *Basic Instinct*, married San Francisco Examiner executive editor Phil Bronstein in February.

"I'm ready for motherhood because I've found the perfect partner," Stone told a British magazine in May. "So we make love every single moment that we get a chance."

Slow but furious, Georges hits US Gulf Coast

By STEPHEN HAWKINS

PASCAGOULA, Mississippi (AP) — Hurricane Georges stalled and weakened yesterday after howling ashore with 278-kph wind gusts and as much as 50 cm of rain. Thousands of people huddled in shelters from Louisiana to Florida.

New Orleans, about 88 km. west of Georges's eye, was spared a direct hit. One death was reported but there were no immediate reports of injuries in any of the Gulf states.

Roof damage forced 404 storm refugees out of a shelter in the coastal town of Gautier, Miss. An apparent tornado in Pascagoula damaged the roof of another shelter holding 90 people.

Power outages affected more than 380,000 customers all along the Gulf Coast yesterday as Georges's top sustained wind slowed to 144 kph.

Airports and highways were closed, waves as tall as a house clipped off Alabama fishing piers and the wind peeled siding and shingles off homes and shredded palm trees.

National Guard troops using trucks and boats had to rescue about 200 people from flooded homes on the Florida Panhandle, where most roads were reported under water and Interstate 10 was washed out near the Alabama line.

Near the storm's landfall, Rachael Alonso huddled with her two small children and about 300 other people this morning in a shelter in Gulfport, Miss.

"The wind is really blowing out there and things are hitting the windows," the 20-year-old Gulfport resident said.

The wind tore down trees with "a howling sound that never quits," said Greg Myles, who stayed through the night with his wife and their teenage daughter in their home about 100 yards from the crashing waves sloshing out of Alabama's Mobile Bay.

More than 1.5 million people had been told to leave the Gulf Coast, spurring "probably the largest evacuation we have ever achieved," said Lt. Col. Ronnie Jones of the Louisiana State Police.

But the storm jogged slightly to the east and kept New Orleans from suffering a double whammy — heavy rain and a storm surge that could submerge a city whose elevation averages 6 feet under sea level.

The hurricane's eye, surrounded by wind blowing at a sustained 168 kph, moved ashore this morning at Ocean Springs, Miss., between Biloxi and Pascagoula, and Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi reported a gust to 278 kph.

Although the worst weather was along the coast, power outages extended as far north as Laurel, Miss., 144 miles north of Pascagoula.

A state of emergency was declared this morning in Hattiesburg, Miss., 96 km. north of the coast.

A hurricane warning remained in force from Grand Isle, La., eastward to Destin, Fla.

Fifty centimeters of rain had fallen by this morning in the Florida Panhandle, with 45 inches at Biloxi, Miss., and 25 inches reported in southern Alabama.

"I'm seeing water on streets that have never had it before," said city worker Richard Brown in Pascagoula, where 37 inches of rain fell overnight.

And because Georges was moving so slowly, Alan Johnson of the weather service in New Orleans said the hurricane could bring 63 to 75 cm. of rain.

One storm-related death was reported. A man died today in a New Orleans fire started by candles being used for light after the hurricane knocked out electricity.

However, Georges' effect on the south was tame compared with its path through the Caribbean, where more than 300 people were killed.

No flooding was reported in New Orleans, but across Lake Pontchartrain, closer to the heart of the storm, water from the storm surge rose at more than 37.5 cm.

an hour in St. Tammany Parish outside Slidell, La., authorities said.

Tens of thousands flocked to New Orleans' nine shelters, including the cavernous Louisiana Superdome and the sprawling Ernest Morial Convention Center. The city had room to shelter 100,000 of its 450,000 people.

But in the city's French Quarter, at least three Bourbon Street bars kept peddling alcohol — including the aptly named hurricane rum punch — after a 6 p.m. curfew.

Damage at a glance

MISSISSIPPI: Landfall at Ocean Springs, between Biloxi and Pascagoula; 275 kph gusts recorded. Airports and highways closed, curfews imposed, flash-flood warnings in effect. 30,000 without power. Storm surge estimated at 10 feet. Red Cross sheltering 9,000 people. No deaths or major injuries.

ALABAMA: Flash flood watch for 22 counties. Gusts up to 136 kph. 25-foot waves clipped off fishing piers on the Gulf. Mandatory evacuations of two coastal counties. 140,000 without power. 4,400 in shelters. No deaths or major injuries.

LOUISIANA: Most of state saw winds 64 kph or less. About 10,000 took shelter in the Superdome. A tidal surge topped a levee in Florissant, east of New Orleans, letting loose 2 to 3 meters of water.

Outages left 104,000 without power. No deaths or serious injuries.

FLORIDA: 50 cm. of rain recorded in Panhandle. Two hundred rescued from flooded homes. Interstate 10 washed out near Alabama line. 82,000 without power. Evacuations ordered for 225,000. On Florida Keys, major damage to 320

homes, including 75 houseboats.

Electricity restored to emergency centers and hospitals in Key West.

Six hundred Florida National Guardsmen on duty. Nighttime curfew in effect until tomorrow. No deaths or serious injuries.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC: At least 210 people reported dead, dozens missing. About 100,000 homeless. Seventy percent of bridges damaged, 90% of banana and other plantations destroyed. Damages estimated at over \$1 billion.

HAITI: 94 deaths reported. Sixty missing. Flooding in Port-au-Prince, Artibonite Valley, northern coast around Cap-Haitien. Dozens of homes destroyed.

CUBA: Five deaths, thousands of homes. Nearly 20,000 homes flooded in Holguin province. Damage to coffee, cacao and banana crops. Some 200,000 people evacuated.

PUERTO RICO: At least three killed directly by the storm, nine others by heart attacks and other health complications, 28,000 people in shelters. Hundreds of homes lost, most water, power out. Damages surpass \$2 billion. (AP)

Study: Many older Americans still have sex

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Nearly half of all Americans over the age of 60 have sex at least once a month and nearly 40 percent of them would like to have it more often, according to a survey released yesterday.

And, they say, their sex lives are more emotionally satisfying than when they were in their 40s, according to the survey, published by the National Council on the Aging.

"Our study debunks the prevailing myths about sexuality in older years," James Firman, president of the council, said in a statement.

"This study underscores the enduring importance of sex among older men and women — even among those who report infrequent sexual activity," added Neal Cutler, director of survey research for the council.

"When older people are not sexually active, it is usually because they lack a partner or because they have a medical condition."

The Roper survey of 1,300 men and women over the age of 60 found that 48% of them said they have sex once a month or more.

Thirty-nine percent said they were happy with the amount of sex they currently have — even if it is none — while another 39% said they would like to make love more often. Only 4% of the people surveyed said they would like to have sex less frequently.

The people who had sex at least once a month said it was important to their relationship. The survey found that 74% of men and 70% of women find their sex lives more emotionally satisfying now than they are older than when they were in their 40s.

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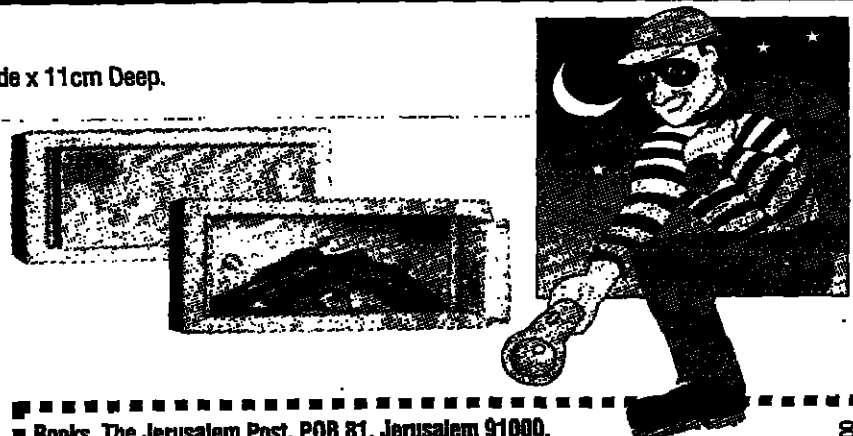
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'Sexual McCarthyism' and the media's role

By JOSH GETLIN

NEW YORK — As the mass media continue their saturation coverage of the Clinton-Lewinsky scandal, some critics have coined the phrase "sexual McCarthyism" to protest the mean-spirited pursuit of skeletons in public officials' closets.

"Are you now or have you ever been an adulterer?" may sound like a weak echo of Sen. Joseph McCarthy's thundering question about Communist Party membership in the 1950s. But the links between the anxiety of that era and independent counsel Kenneth W. Starr's probe in our time are not so far-fetched.

In Illinois, GOP congressional candidate Gary Muller told reporters last week that he has signed a fidelity oath, revealing that he has never cheated on his wife or had a homosexual encounter. He dared his opponent to do the same.

In Texas, Governor George W. Bush — widely expected to be a Republican presidential candidate — has been openly discussing his rowdy past with magazine writers, in the apparent hope of immunizing himself against future news investigations.

And at a Washington news conference, feminist Betty Friedan warned that "sex is going to take the place of the Cold War." As reporters and government officials pry into private lives, she suggested, many will be driven out of public life.

To be sure, there are key differences between McCarthy's probe of national subversion and Starr's focus on Clinton's behavior. Yet there is one constant: Then as now, the media have played a crucial role in reflecting and amplifying charges of misconduct, and its performance has come under heavy fire.

The main similarity between current events and the Red scare of the 1950s is the issue of privacy, according to Kathleen Hall Jamieson, dean of the Annenberg School of Communication in Philadelphia. "When you open up everything in someone's past to scrutiny, and with no sense of fairness, it can lead to a witch hunt," she said. "Obviously, the press plays a role in this."

MCCARTHYISM of any kind — sexual or political — is a loaded

and often vague term that recalls a nightmarish episode in American history. The Wisconsin senator had millions of people in a panic almost 50 years ago, wondering if they would be exposed over long-ago incidents in their political pasts.

Using the investigative powers of a Senate committee, he made wild, unsubstantiated charges about Communist infiltration of the US government, and thousands of people lost their jobs after they were "blacklisted" for allegedly subversive activities.

McCarthy was censured by the Senate in 1954 for his behavior, and died three years later.

Today, "sexual McCarthyism" means different things, depending on whom you talk to. For some, it highlights Starr's probing of President Bill Clinton's sexual activities with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky. To others, it refers to a wave of recent "outings," where the media prompted three Republican members of Congress to publicly acknowledge extramarital affairs.

Even more alarming to many is the specter of government prosecutors seeking ostensibly secret grand jury testimony —

and having details of one's most private affairs broadcast or published.

For all these reasons, there is a growing unease that the sex lives of public figures have become legitimate targets of inquiry for media and government investigators — even though polls suggest a majority of Americans do not approve.

AMERICA has a long tradition of civil liberties, but with hunts of any kind put it to the test, said Ellen Shrecker, author of *Many Are the Crimes*, a history of McCarthyism.

In the 1950s and today, she said, "we've had a criminalization of activities, politics or sex, that are not illegal, and this is done through a governmental investigative process."

Back then, the newspaper-dominated media routinely printed McCarthy's charges without verifying them.

The experience led to much soul-searching in journalism and a determination that the media would no longer be merely a mouthpiece for politicians.

Instead, media officials resolved that they would investigate and verify stories on their own, an

aggressive trend that reached its peak in the Watergate investigations.

Today, with a significantly larger media complex, the Clinton scandals are beamed into people's homes on a level undreamed of 50 years ago.

This time, it has a far greater capacity to inform ... or to do ill. And so far, reviews are decidedly mixed on whether the media have stoked the fires of "sexual McCarthyism."

"In some ways, the media's performance is reminiscent of the worst excesses of the 1950s, in terms of the prying into private lives," said historian David Oshinsky, author of *A Conspiracy So Immense*.

"You could make the case that McCarthy, for all his faults, was investigating something that had to do with policy. But when the media reports on a 30-year-old affair by [House Judiciary Committee Chairman] Henry Hyde, I don't know what that has to do with policy."

Although Starr's office spearheaded the Clinton investigation, "the press is [often] carrying the ball all by itself, with its own probes," said Edwin R. Bayley, a former *Milwaukee*

Journal reporter who covered McCarthy. "In some ways, it [the media] is contributing to this criminalizing of sex, and this is truly deplorable."

THAT prompts an angry retort from some media executives, such as *60 Minutes* creator Don Hewitt, who said that the media is merely doing its duty to report an important, albeit tawdry, story about a possible White House cover-up.

Hewitt, who directed Edward R. Murrow's famous televised attack on McCarthy, conceded that the investigation of private sexual behavior "is not a good trend in the Congress or anywhere else. And I'm not apologizing or making excuses for it ... but we're reporting the trend, we're not creating the trend."

That distinction may be meaningless, however, in an age of 24-hour media coverage. For example, scores of reporters passed up the opportunity to break the Hyde adultery story on the grounds that it was irrelevant — only to see their papers and stations run with it after the Web magazine *Salon* published the story.

"I don't think that the current

wave of 'outing' people reflects any genuine desire in the general public to smoke out adulterers," said James Fallows, former editor of *US News and World Report*. "It's purely political, a witch hunt confined to the elite, in which one party hurts another."

There may even be a useful lesson for Americans in the Chinese Cultural Revolution of the 1960s, said Orville Schell, dean of the University of California, Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism and a longtime China watcher.

Back then, he said, "people were executed for having affairs ... women were driven insane with hectoring and bullying if they dared kiss a man and weren't married."

Schell said he met recently with Chinese refugees, who were bewildered that Clinton, the world's most powerful man, was being pilloried.

"They agreed he might be a sexual obsessive," he noted, "but they said the probe also reminded them of the world they left behind — a place with no privacy, where you can hold nothing aloof from state scrutiny."

(Los Angeles Times)

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Touch wood and remember

By HELEN KAYE

It's been 25 years since wailing sirens tore into the hush of Yom Kippur, signaling the start of the most bruising war in this country's history.

"It's hard for me, very hard," says Shmulik Calderon, the author and performer of *Touch Wood*. "I'm flooded with memories. They pour in, and they're hard to deal with."

Calderon was playing a soldier called Jonathan in the Haifa Theater when the war broke out. He was drafted, and his unit ended up in the Sinai where he was befriended by a real Jonathan who was blinded by a mortar fragment in the last days of the war. *Touch Wood* closes the circle on those repressed memories.

Next month this quiet drama officially celebrates its 500th performance. More than 100,000 people here and in the US have seen Calderon tell his and Jonathan's story. He wrote the play in 1994, together with actress/director Ruth Dymally.

Reaction to the play depends on the audience's age, says Calderon, but "it moves all of them. For those who experienced that war,

it's difficult. They were there, and they don't want to remember. When I performed in the US, people were moved, and it surprised them that they could identify with it, because 'it's so Israeli,' they told me. And I'd tell them 'it's like the Talmud says, people know this story, it's as old as history. I just remind them.'

Touch Wood marked Calderon's return to the stage after a 17-year hiatus, during which he worked as a businessman, a producer, even an impresario. One day he decided that living with numbers was no way to live and that he'd become an arts therapist. To this day he doesn't know why, saying "my car just took me to the college and I just made the registration deadline."

The intensive courses - in psychodrama, music, theater and movement therapy among others - "reawakened my creative forces and abilities. You say to yourself 'I'm an actor,' and then the idea came that I'd go back to the stage."

A series of serendipities led to a reunion with the real Jonathan in his first year at the college. During that same period "my father was dying and I had no tools to deal with that situation, so I started to



Shmulik Calderon: 'I'm flooded with memories. They pour in, and they're hard to deal with.'

write, about my childhood, separation from my father. I knew then that I wanted to write about Jonathan."

Calderon grew up in a shack with no electricity or plumbing that was built in the backyard of the Ramat Gan machine shop

where his father worked. He spent his vacations with his grandparents in Jerusalem, where his mother's family had lived for five generations.

Movies nourished his dreams of becoming an actor and the IDF, where he served in intelligence, allowed Calderon to study at the Nissan Nativ Studio. He was 22 when he went to the Haifa Theater in 1973.

Since his return to the stage four years ago, Calderon has been in half a dozen movies, most recently the yet-to-be-released *Tzur Hadassim* in which he plays Menashe, a businessman who becomes a hermit. He is also writing two screenplays and another monodrama, a comedy about a know-it-all '50s kid.

There's also a joint US/Israeli movie in the works which will turn *Touch Wood* into a full action movie, and for which he'll write the screenplay.

The Yom Kippur War "didn't teach me to hate, but it was the end of my childhood and the end of innocence for the state. We've learned nothing. We've not applied the lessons of the war. They stay buried in academic the-

Sarah Chang: from prodigy to virtuoso

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Three and a half years ago, arranging a phone interview with Sarah Chang was no easy task.

The father of the then 13-year-old violinist from Philadelphia had to approve the hour of the call so that it did not interfere with his daughter's efforts to combine a career as an international globe-trotting violinist and with being a "normal kid."

Now, at 17, she says that about a year and a half ago, she realized that the time had come to take some control of her life.

"My management and parents decided everything for me and I really had no idea what I was playing and where I was playing it. Suddenly I got fed up with this situation."

So now Chang will have much more say "about scheduling and repertoire. My management and parents will still do all the work, but they will consult with me - after all, it is my life and my career."

The ever-smiling Chang is performing Thursday night in the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra's season-opening concert, under the baton of Zubin Mehta.

She is one of the many young violinists of Asian origin - she was born in the US to Korean-born parents - who in recent years have been conquering the violin world that used to be the domain of



At just 17, Sarah Chang already has released eight discs.

young Jewish kids.

Since her debut with Mehta and the New York Philharmonic the age of eight she has played with all the world's leading orchestras. Now one of the most sought-after violinists of her generation, Chang is also trying to complete her last year of high school.

"I'm doing homework all the time here and faxing it to my school. I'm e-mailing my teachers and friends all the time; that is how I've been living for the past years."

Her current assignments, "done in between practice sessions," are on *The Great Gatsby*, calculus and German.

She wants very much to attend college next year.

"And no, I don't think of doing music in college. I love languages and literature. I want to study literature and I believe that if I want to do it now is the time; afterwards, my career will never allow this."

There is also the issue of which college Chang will attend. "My parents would love for me to go to

Princeton, which is near home, but I really love Europe and want to study there very much, so we will see, it still has to be decided."

There is no doubt that Chang would love to leave home for a while. She admits that occasionally the rebel teen in her would like to travel alone. But she admits that having a parent accompany her on tours is a great bonus.

"My parents think I'm not old enough to travel alone yet. But, you know, most of my tours are long, usually three to six weeks, and it's nice to have someone to take care of you. I don't admit to it that much, but it is nice, and anyway I wouldn't like to be in a city alone too much. And it's also nice that I can swap between my parents from time to time."

"Last time in Israel [in June 1995] I came with my father and we went to Masada. This time I came with my mother who is the walking type. We walked all over old Jaffa yesterday and it was great. But there are places where even my parents wouldn't mind me going alone because they know I'm in good hands."

Chang has already eight discs and has recording projects lined up until 2002. Although she enjoys recording, she admits that making discs out of live concerts appeals to her more.

Her most recent album of popular encores, *Simply Sarah*, reveals that the smiling prodigy has

turned into a mature musician who brings virtuosity to the most popular and schmaltzy violin hits. By now, the adolescent violinist has a bigger say on what is featured on the covers of her discs as well.

"I'm a bit more picky than I used to be and ask to have a bigger say. I want the cover to focus on me and the violin, I don't want to be transformed, I want it to be very natural. I think sexy covers are very attractive and you have to go with the general flow, but I'm still a classical violinist and there should be some kind of dignity in the cover and how I'm portrayed."

Chang will play the Sibelius violin concerto with Mehta and the IPO on Thursday and next Monday and Tuesday at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv. "I learned the concerto when I was seven and have played it since on many occasions. It has a truly great bittersweet mixture of coldness and warmth and excitement. It is one of the most emotional and energy draining concertos."

Chang tries as much as she can to be "a normal 17-year-old girl who hangs out with her friends, shops like crazy and spends her dad's money. My parents always wanted me to go to a normal school aside of Juilliard. I always grew up with kids my own age and it was very important for me."

Chang's concerts are at 8:30 p.m. except on Thursday, when the concert starts at 7.

Grooving in the avocado grove

By BARRY DAVIS and ELANA CHIPMAN

Only the most hardened cynic could fail to be moved by the Beresht Festival over Rosh Hashana. As corny as it may sound there was a sincere and tangible atmosphere of brotherly (and sisterly) love at this three-day event, held in an old avocado grove near Hadera.

Indeed, had a casual visitor from outer space landed there, he might have been forgiven for thinking he had set the warp clock on his spacecraft to the Sixties instead of the late Nineties.

The festival, organized by Gilron Productions, was dedicated to conservation and ecological activity, but was mainly a pretext for part-time hippies, peacekeepers and "just returned from India" youngsters to get together for a few days of camping and good music.

Aside from the main gigs in the evenings, activities during the day included performances and improvisations on a small stage, workshops covering every imaginable alternative school of physical and spiritual health, alternative treatments and even a kindergarten (and there were certainly lots of children).

On the whole, the event was very well organized. The grounds were well-planned and laid out, with a constantly bustling food area and a camping ground amongst the trees. There were rather primitive showers and toilets, a big mud bath, an open area facing the main stage, and stalls selling everything from hippie clothing and temporary henna tattoos, to dream-catching nets, juggling gear and Amazonian rain-makers.

The arts-and-crafts stalls were certainly busy but, this being Israel, the main focus of activity - at all times of the day or night - was definitely the makeshift eateries. They offered a multifarious array of dishes, ranging from Arab food to plain old ice cream, and from spicy Thai fare to the kind of bourekas which are readily available from your local supermarket.

All in all, a good time was had by all. As Ron Caras, a soldier making the most of a precious two days of leave from his regular military duties, put it: "The moment I walked into the festival grounds I felt happiness all around. The music was wonderful. I am going back to the army tonight very reluctantly."

Yoram Sivan, a wood-worker from Neveh Tzedek, who sold and played his didgeridoo

at the festival, echoed the sentiment:

"The festival is fantastic - a temporary utopia in the modern age. It brings out the best in people and is the way everyday life should be."

ON THE musical side, one of the highlights was the electrifying concert by Habreira Hativ'it. Band leader Shlomo Bar was in his usual mesmerizing fettle and the rest of the group produced the kind of soulful professional performance one would expect of a line-up that has graced the country's stages for three decades.

A pleasant surprise was the appearance of popular Arab songstress Amal Murkus, who performed a number in Arabic that had the large crowd whooping and cheering long and hard.

On the third night, the musical agenda went somewhat awry when efforts to achieve perfect sound balance and tuning were way behind schedule and the entire evening started over two hours late; thus, the last performance only started at around midnight.

First came Tararam, a percussion band that defines itself as a fusion of Mediterranean and Latino-Cuban music. The fusion worked quite well with a darbuka improvisation mov-

ing into a loud and boisterous Latin rhythm that really had the audience hopping. The nine-member band had over 10 different drum and percussion sets.

Gaia, the next band, was the meekest and least professional of the central attractions. They played at least three songs addressed to Mother Earth (on the whole, the topics of most songs played at the festival were decidedly hippie: peace, universal love, caring for the earth, Shechina, the brotherhood of man and the like).

The highlight of the evening was a performance by Sheva, just back from a tour of the US. This increasingly popular group has charisma, groove and plenty of joy, all of which come across clearly in their music.

Despite the late hour they had the audience dancing and singing along to songs such as "Salaam, unto us and the entire world." Their hit number, "Hilula" featured a spontaneous dialogue of belly shaking and drumming between guest belly dancer Maya Gabai and darbuka player Ahmed Taber from Acre.

Judging by the number of people at Beresht '98, and following the similar Shateep festival held several months earlier, it looks like this kind of event has made its mark on the national festival calendar.

Crow flies in a different direction

In Tune



By David Brinn

Sheryl Crow's *The Globe Session* is an ambitious, bold and sprawling disc, the kind that are rarely made anymore in these days of musical compartmentalization.

Already having proven herself as a committed and engaging rocker in a bluesy Rolling



Sheryl Crow

matted music. You never knew what to expect on Nathan's hip-hop station. But one constant was the nightly "Twilight Time" whose hour was devoted to schmaltzy love songs like those included here on this 25th anniversary tribute.

Landmark schlocky touchstones like Andy Williams' theme song to *Love Story*, The Colour Field's "The Windmills of Your Mind," and The Brothers Four's "Green Fields" are assured to get you in a retro mood. I was hooked by the inclusion of personal favorite '60s ballad, Lulu's "To Sir With Love."

A hoot near the end of the 20-songs set is a live version of the artist's theme song, John Lennon's "Give Peace a Chance" recorded in Toronto with Eric Clapton in 1969.

The ex-Beatle, who admitted in later interviews that he totally forgot the lyrics due to stage fright and who knows what kind of drugs, improvises the lyrics to include Nathan's name, who had become renowned in the late 1960s among peace activists.

Ultimately, this set is only recommended for those who want to relive the idealistic days, and the sappy musical fare that went along with it.

IF you haven't had enough of the ubiquitous Celine Dion and the year-of-Titanic, check out *S'il Suffisait D'Aimer*, a French-language collection on which the chanteuse collaborates with musical director Jean-Jacques Goldman.

Dion's voice is impressive in any language, but only staunch fans will want to acquire this hit-and-miss package of love songs released here to capitalize on Dion fever.

SPEAKING of cashing in, what the heck is *Back to Titanic*? It's got some incidental background music from the movie, some more music inspired by the movie, another Celine Dion song, "My Heart Will Go On," and even some more music which would have been in *Titanic* 2 if the ship had somehow survived.

Like Jack Nicholson said about the movie at the Oscars, listening to it left me with a sinking feeling.

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Jerusalem symphony shines in Bucharest

By Maxim Reider

Concert Roundup

The 1998 edition of the George Enesco International Festival, which celebrated its 40th anniversary this year, transformed Bucharest into one of the world's musical capitals.

For two weeks, from September 6 to 20, this festival - dedicated to the memory of the eminent Romanian musician - hosted 12 international orchestras from Chicago, Barcelona, Jerusalem and others. The musicians played under the baton of such conductors as Daniel Barenboim, Leonard Slatkin and Sir Yehudi Menuhin and with soloists including pianists Radu Lupu, Bruno Canino and Peter

Frankl. Singers Tereza Berganza and Barbara Hendricks and Violinists Shlomo Minz, Gidon Kremer and Salvatore Accardo performed as soloists or with their chamber ensembles. Many local musicians also took part in this prestigious event.

The program had no clear theme, featuring music from Haydn and Mozart to Wagner, Shostakovich and Barber. The Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra-IBA featured two of the most interesting operas of the 20th century.

Under French maestro Frederic Chaslin, the JSO offered a solid rendition of Stravinsky's *Oedipus Rex* one that was well thought out both in detail and overall concept and that revealed the emotion hidden behind the mask of the composer's characteristic coldness. The orchestra's sound was very good, replete with beautiful solo and section playing.

Regrettably, the festival's singers

were unimpressive both vocally and dramatically, with the exception of George Emil Crasnar. *Oedipus Rex* did not fall down, but it did not soar either.

The real success of the evening came after the intermission, with Bartok's *Duke Bluebeard's Castle*. Chaslin led the JSO confidently through this extremely difficult performance, from climax to climax to the ruthless showdown.

Two wonderful singing actors came up on stage, both Hungarian by birth (which is quite important in this opera), and both with solid international careers. The sensational bass Csaba Aizer sent chills down one's spine and the deep and tragic mezzo Katlin Szendrenyi made him a perfect match in this agonizing exploration of a man-woman relationship.

Chaslin, who has strong ties to Israel, had nothing but praise for the JSO and its incredible energy. The conductor's movements were

very soft, yet exact.

"This is my language: the musicians play what they see. As a student I watched the hands of the conductors I liked - they had very aesthetic movements, and a lot of weight. I practiced under water - everybody thought I was crazy - and then in front of the orchestra I tried to feel the same density. When you conduct like this the orchestra begins to play with deep and rich sonority."

The JSO received a warm reception in Cluj, where the orchestra's Romanian tour actually began as part of the 33rd Cluj Musical Autumn Festival.

There are few cars in drowsy Cluj and smiling faces are scarce there, yet the ancient center of Transylvania - with two theaters, and two opera houses - enjoys a rich cultural life.

The JSO performed in the university hall, probably too small for the full orchestra and the local men's

choir. The hall needs renovation and its ventilation system was inefficient, but the enthusiastic public seemed not to mind.

In the vocal recital held in the intimate Music Academy Hall, the beautiful Zurich-based Chinese singer Yi-Ping Li, accompanied by the experienced Swiss pianist Giovanni Bria, performed a selection of opera arias. The tragic ones were especially good.

Yet the real highlight of the evening were songs by local composer Andrian Pop (music adviser of the Cluj Philharmonic and the Cluj Festival), written to the late poems of Tristan Tzara, the Romanian Jew and founder of the Dada movement who lived in Paris. The songs portrayed a changing mood of love and an utmost musical sincerity.

Says Pop (47), a polite man with a sad knowledge in his gray eyes: "After so many years of complications, we have to be honest."

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The watershed war

Israel as a nation has had its share of traumatic moments, but none more traumatic than the war that began 25 years ago on Yom Kippur. The Yom Kippur War was a watershed event in a national psyche still soaring upon the sense of invincibility generated by the breathtaking Six Day War victory — one which suddenly brought it down to earth. For Israel, the Yom Kippur War created an historical paradox: a military victory that precipitated a deep crisis in confidence.

Militarily, the Yom Kippur War was arguably Israel's greatest victory. Starting from a position in which the enemy had achieved a near-total degree of strategic surprise, the reserve forces mobilized rapidly, if chaotically, to repel the numerically superior Egyptian and Syrian armies. The IDF advance continued until the army was close to Cairo and Damascus, and was being restrained from going further by diplomatic more than by military considerations.

Once the war was over, however, Israel plunged into an understandable sea of self-criticism and self-doubt. The Agranat Commission found a long list of glaring mistakes that cost untold numbers of lives — from the mistaken intelligence assessments before the war, to lack of planning to ensure a smooth, full-scale mobilization, to the misplaced confidence in the ability of regular forces to hold fixed lines (such as the Bar-Lev Line along the Suez Canal), to the assumption that the air force would operate almost unchallenged.

As damning as the Agranat Commission's report was, however, it only began to capture the sense of disillusionment that enveloped Israeli society. The Yom Kippur War discredited the entire establishment that had ruled in an unbroken chain since the state's founding, and led to the revolutionary victory of Menachem Begin's Likud in the 1977 elections. Further, it spurred the rise of two opposing, arguably messianic, movements: Gush Emunim and Peace Now.

Like America after Vietnam and Watergate, Israel after the Yom Kippur War lost confidence in itself and its leaders. The vacuum created by the collapse of faith in the country's direction could no longer be filled by the single dominant ideology that drove the building of the state. In its place came, on the right, the settlement movement, and on the left, a belief that Israeli blindness, not Arab enmity, was the primary

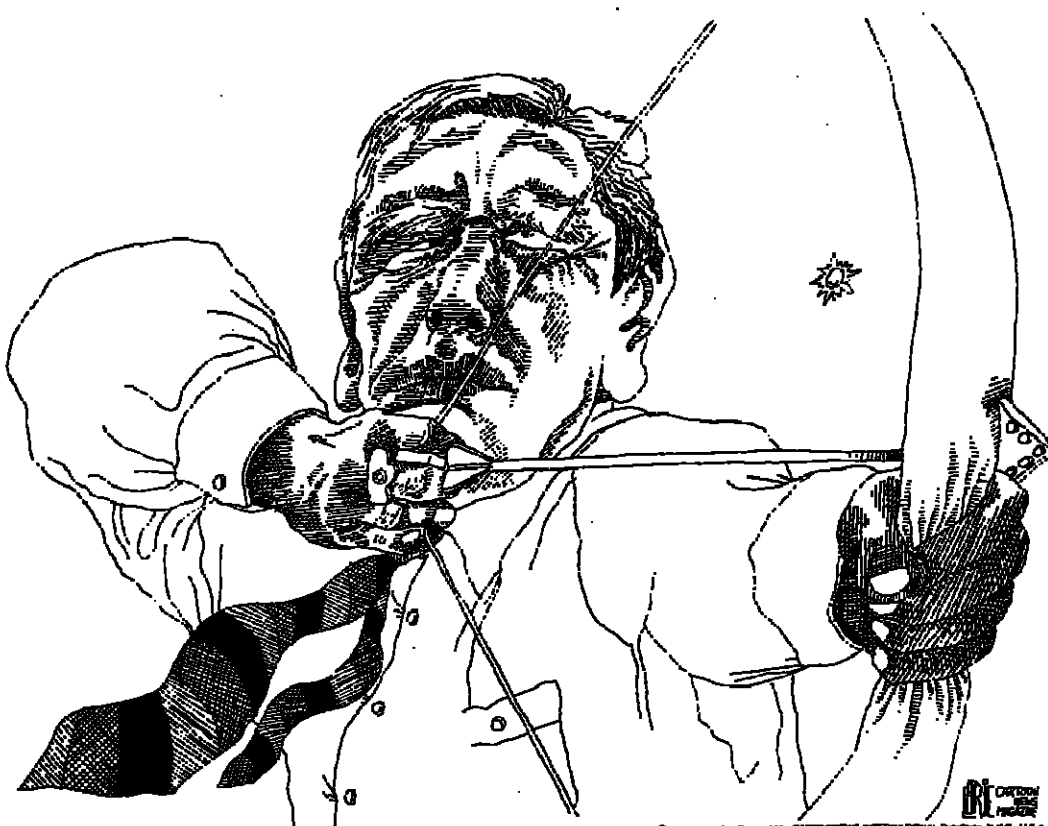
obstacle to peace.

A generation later, both movements have succeeded to a large degree. Though the settlers will not succeed in having Israel retain all of Judea and Samaria under its control, there is little doubt Israel will keep more territory than it would have had the Arab world accepted Israel's offer to negotiate peace treaties following the Six Day War. Peace Now, for its part, has succeeded even more spectacularly. Just over five years ago, talk of talking to the PLO, or of a Palestinian state, was political suicide. Today a Likud prime minister considers it a victory when Yasser Arafat meets with him for the purpose of negotiations, whose assumed conclusion is some form of a Palestinian state.

Twenty-five years later, the national consensus has evolved much closer to the goals of Peace Now than those of Gush Emunim. Those who believe the Arab world is ready to make lasting peace with Israel, combined with those who are not sure but see no alternative but to try, constitute a solid majority. If the Yom Kippur War signaled the end of Israel's pioneering, perhaps over-confident phase, the period since has been marked by increasing restlessness to complete unfinished business.

The legacy of vulnerability left by the Yom Kippur War, and reinforced by the passive absorption of missile attacks during the Gulf War, both impels the need for resolution, while making it more difficult. Post-1973 Israel has trouble appreciating its own strength, and frets about being surprised again. In an age of growing threats from non-conventional weapons, delivered by missiles or by terrorists, concern over being surprised is not unfounded. The IDF has not yet undergone sufficient restructuring to fully reflect the new balance of threats and the changing nature of modern warfare. On the other hand, Israel's population growth, the collapse of the Soviet Union, peace agreements, and a bent for integrating sophisticated technologies, have all contributed to enhancing Israel's strategic position beyond where it was 25, or even 10, years ago.

Perhaps, with the Yom Kippur War marking the half-way point between Israel's founding and its jubilee, we can now find a balance between arrogance and fear, and between exaggerated senses of invincibility and vulnerability. Peace of mind and peace with our neighbors can contribute to each other.



Germany's Chancellor Elect GERHARD SCHROEDER

How many shall die?

How many shall live...how many shall die?

It is now time to say that Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, after two years in office, is directly accountable for the failure to reduce road carnage.

This year, expect 600 dead, 35,000 persons injured, and thousands maimed, crippled, paralyzed or disfigured. Here is why Netanyahu is personally accountable for this debacle.

Just after he was elected prime minister in June 1996, Netanyahu's soon-to-be director of communications, David Bar-Ilan, wrote a magnificent farewell editorial in *The Jerusalem Post* on how to reduce the annual death toll to under 200 before the year 2000. The editorial was based on the recommendations of Metuna, the organization which won the 1998 Knesset Speaker's Prize for Quality of Life, and the Henry R. Bets Project for Injury Prevention at the Hebrew University.

Metuna's major recommendations were: Kill speed by lowering the speed limit from 100 to 90 kph on high-speed roads. Do not raise the 80 kph speed limit on feeder interurban roads. Introduce a nationwide network of roadside speed cameras on interurban roads. Crack down on trucking companies for forcing truck drivers to work more than 10 hours a day.

More recommendations: Monitor the use of governors and tachographs in trucks. Pedestrianize urban neighborhoods and introduce 30 kph zones wherever there is heavy pedestrian traffic or black spots. Extend the successful Netanya speed camera program to other cities. Introduce a compulsory bicycle helmet law. Carry out nighttime breath testing near pubs. Promote more mass transit. Freeze the decision to build the Cross-Israel Highway. Promote better and less expensive bus travel. Invest in railroads.

ELIHU D. RICHTER

Rapid implementation of all these measures would put Israel well on the way to what is now called Vision Zero, the term used by the Swedish government for its policy to eliminate road deaths.

The Metuna plan gave estimates as to how many deaths would be prevented by each measure, based on results from international and local data.

For example, the Netanya speed camera project reduced injuries by 28% and deaths by more than half. Revenues from speed camera programs not only would put Vision Zero on a self-financing basis, after the original capital investment, but would provide funds for rehabilitation of road injury victims.

The UK, Australia and other countries have cut death tolls by using roadside speed cameras to kill speed, because speed kills. (In Israel, deaths rose by 29% from 427 in 1990 to 550 in 1995, whereas as death tolls fell by amounts as great as 30% in the UK and 50% in Australia.)

Netanyahu's government has not only failed to kill speed, but has been taking steps to increase speed. The government opposes speed cameras, because, according to director of the Road Safety Authority Shmuel Herszkowitz, it does not want to "terrorize speeders."

This means the government is condoning speed terrorism, and that more, not fewer, Israelis will be killed.

SUCCESS or failure in road injury policy is one issue which can be judged by short-term drops or rises in the number of dead. This is the bottom line. Expect more than 600 dead, 35,000 persons injured, and thousands maimed, crippled, paralyzed or disfigured as a result of the incompetence of Netanyahu's government.

Here are some of the errors of omission and commission from current policies being rubber-stamped by Netanyahu's government and how many people they kill.

At least 50 to 60 victims are sacrificed each year by the following decisions to promote speed violence: failure to cancel the 100 kph speed limit and restore the 90 kph speed limit on high speed roads; raising the speed limit on high speed roads again, from 100 to 110 kph (and not ticketing speeds below 120 kph); and raising the speed limit from 80 to 90 kph on other interurban roads.

Failure to introduce a national interurban speed camera system is a decision not to prevent the deaths of some 100 persons a year.

Netanyahu, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman and National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon are directly responsible for the one main decision which, if implemented, can be expected to kill many more Israelis: building the Trans-Israel Highway and its connecting roads. These high speed roads mean road death tolls which could reach 1,000 per year from more car traffic and much more speed.

Worse, these roads mean gutting mass transit and burying prospects for a nationwide rail system, which would massively reduce death tolls. Ironically, this government's distorted and perverted transportation policy is why Jerusalem, since August, is now the only capital city in the world without a rail service. Last year's budget for rail was 5% that budgeted for asphalt.

Hold Netanyahu accountable for how many shall live, how many shall die. Stop Speed Terror. Implement Vision Zero.

The writer is head of the Bets Injury Prevention Project, Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School.

No longer immune

EVELYN GORDON

further procedural hurdles: An amendment to the Basic Law: The Knesset will have to be passed by a majority of 61 MKs. However, it is a good sign that during the committees' deliberations, only one MK spoke against the idea. Even MKs who in the past have fiercely defended the Knesset's prerogatives in this area, expressed support for the proposal.

WHAT the MKs appear to have grasped is that in the face of growing public outrage, the Nissim recommendations are the best deal they are going to get. The truth is that there is no reason for procedural immunity to exist at all. The original motivation for the law — the fear of legal persecution of the opposition by the ruling party — has proven unfounded. No MK has ever been indicted to serve the government's wishes.

But even should such a thing should occur, the victim would not be without recourse. He could, for instance, petition the High Court of Justice, and if he could show that the indictment was politically motivated, the court would almost certainly cancel it.

Since the Knesset is not needed to protect its fellows against persecution, it must, by default, degenerate into one of two roles. The first is that of a rubber stamp which routinely okays every request of the attorney-general. In this case, the immunity rules not only waste the legislature's time, but they also encourage a dangerous habit of mind in an institution whose job is to oversee the executive.

The second option is even worse. Rather than being a rubber stamp, the Knesset could intervene to protect probable criminals from trial. This is what happened, for instance, in the famous case of MK Raphael Pinhasi (Shas), who

was suspected of tax fraud.

In 1993, despite strong evidence against him, his fellow MKs refused to let him stand trial — even though no one claimed the indictment was politically motivated. Only five years later, following heavy public pressure, was this decision reversed (and Pinhasi convicted on a lesser charge in a plea bargain).

Whatever the MKs' motives might have been in this and similar cases, the public perception was that they were more concerned with protecting their own than with serving law and justice. Such decisions thereby further undermine the public's already tenuous faith in its legislators.

Trust in the legislature is an important element in a democracy, and in Israel, it is already dangerously low. This is largely due to the Knesset's reputation for placing partisan interests above the good of the country, but a name as a safe haven for criminals hardly helps.

Transferring immunity decisions from the Knesset to an outside body will not solve the problem, since the new body will face the same choices. Either it will rubber-stamp the attorney-general's decisions, making it a waste of public funds, or it will intervene to protect suspected criminals, thereby increasing public distrust of the Knesset.

However, it does have one advantage over the existing system. The public may continue to be outraged over the fact that criminals can serve in the legislature with impunity, but at least the Knesset as a whole will not be conniving at the situation.

Procedural immunity should be eliminated altogether. However, MKs are unlikely to approve so drastic a measure, and the Nissim proposal is a step in the right direction. The Knesset should pass it. And perhaps, once MKs have had time to see that the sky did not fall in, they will be ready to go the rest of the way.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LIVING UP TO OUR DESTINY

Sir, — Sheikh Ahmed Yassin has called for revenge and more, for the killing of the Awadallah brothers, and our prime minister and defense minister have put a closure on the territories until after the High Holy Days and have warned everyone to be on the alert.

Doubtless this killing, as well as that of the Amal leader by helicopter fire recently, has somewhat redressed our failure to assassinate Khaled Mashal in Jordan and the botched naval commando raid last year in Lebanon. But was it worth it?

It should not be forgotten that Yassin's release from prison last year was part of a deal with Jordan over the botched assassination

attempt. The Chiechanover Report on this attempt displayed no moral concern about political assassination in itself, nor the breach of faith with the least unfriendly of our Arab neighbors, but exonerates the prime minister who authorized the operation.

Furthermore, when the General Assembly of the United Nations recently called upon Israel to pay \$2.4 million in damages for the destruction caused by IDF shelling of the UN compound in Kana, in which some 100 Lebanese were killed on April 18, 1996, Israel, supported by the US alone, voted against the 109 members.

If the shelling was "a mistake" as prime minister Peres claimed at the

time, then surely we should have offered compensation to the innocent victims of our tragic error.

Whither, we may ask, is gone our national honor, and when will the nations of the world declare, as we read in our book of Deuteronomy (4:6-8): "What a wise and understanding people is this great nation!... And what [other] great nation has such righteous laws and statutes?"

Can we attempt to match up to this great challenge, which is our destiny, in the coming new year?

ISAAC NEWMAN,
Rabbi for Human Rights
Jerusalem.

HATE CAMPAIGN IN RA'ANANA

Rabin assassination.
If one substituted "Arabs" for haredim, Bar-Tal would be the first to scream "racism!" A hate campaign is reprehensible anywhere, especially in Ra'anana, which is a model of coexistence among Jews on various points of the religious spectrum, as well as Jews and neighboring Arabs.

ANTI-HAREDI PREJUDICE

stop the haredim."
It is a pity Kaplan Sommer did not ask Bar-Tal to explain why she introduced this issue into her supposedly feminist anti-prejudice campaign.

Bar-Tal says that she has not held any polls to discover whether we women are proud of her. I can save her the trouble. I have asked local secular, religious, left-wing and right-wing women what they think of her

Bar-Tal's feeling that the women in Ra'anana are proud of her is as removed from reality as her slogan.

I, for one, am ashamed of and for her.

DR. NINA ZELDUS

Ra'anana.

campaign. Without exception, all the women are deeply offended and disturbed by these posters.

My poll did not include the views of haredi women because, try as I might, I just couldn't find any on the streets of Ra'anana.

MARIAN LEBOR

Ra'anana.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On September 29, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported on the inauguration of a new Polish-Palestine Steamship Line. A 15,000-ton liner, *Polonia*, was diverted from the transatlantic route to begin a regular fortnightly service between Constanza and Haifa, a three-day

journey with a stop at Istanbul and Piraeus.

50 years ago: On September 29, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that heavy fighting continued in Jerusalem. A number of Jewish soldiers were killed and wounded in two air

raids and a persistent Arab bombardment of Jewish positions in Deir Abu Tor, at Mount Zion and in the New Gate sector. There were numerous Arab attempts to infiltrate the Jewish positions.

Alexander Zvielli

סוכן מן הארץ

Two wars in one, vividly relived

While untold numbers of books about the Yom Kippur War have appeared over the last two decades, Chaim Herzog's riveting, weakness-exposing story remains one of the best, **Arieh O'Sullivan** writes



Moshe Dayan, then defense minister, drinks with the troops: Overconfident and complacent, the generals got a shock they would never forget. (Photos from 'The War of Atonement')



Israeli troops pause by the sweet-water canal near Ismailiya.

The re-release of Chaim Herzog's *The War of Atonement - The Inside Story of the Yom Kippur War, 1973* (Greenhill Books/Lionel Leventhal Limited, 300 pages with 9 maps and 18 photos) comes as we mark the 25th anniversary of the Yom Kippur War.

Though untold numbers of books have been written about the war since this one was published in 1975, Herzog's volume remains one of the most comprehensive works on the subject.

As his son, Col. Michael Herzog, puts it in the new introduction to the book, *The War of Atonement* "seems like a wine that has improved with age."

Herzog collected records of battlefield and general command briefings to tell what he calls "the inside story" of the war. But while it is unabashedly revealing, it does not even pretend to give an overall review of the war from anything but the Israeli perspective. Egyptian and Syrian armies appear only as statements about their strength and movements. Occasionally, a captured conversation is thrown in for perspective.

Herzog lays the foundation for his riveting, weakness-exposing story of the war with a comprehensive section on the political and military background of the conflict, from the end of the Six Day War until the attacks commenced at 2 p.m. on October 6, 1973.

WHAT will strike the reader is the utter shock suffered by the swaggering, overconfident and complacent generals, who were preparing to fight the Six Day War all over again. Much is described about the intelligence breakdown; and Herzog traces the development of Israel's strategic thought up until the war.

The second section deals with the war itself. As a former head of military intelligence, Herzog's ability to describe the operations is to be expected. With amazing

lucidity, he recounts the fighting of complex battles and includes moving episodes and exploits by ordinary soldiers while keeping the whole picture of the war in view.

Herzog's description of the war makes it clear that it was, in essence, two very different wars, one against the Syrians in the North and the other against the Egyptians in the South. Instead of a chronological account of the war, he tells each front's story separately.

Herzog is able to avoid the lifeless writing that so often plagues historians. One of his tricks was

upper level of the ski lift, a mile from the Hermon position. One helicopter exploded."

At other points, the writing becomes gripped by high emotion, as in the description of OC Southern Command Maj.-Gen. Shmuel Gonen's last conversation with Maj.-Gen. Albert Mandler. Gonen, communicating by radio with Mandler on the Egyptian front, asked him a question. There was no reply. Gonen, turning to Ezer Weizman, said that "Albert has been killed." Weizman's reply? "What nonsense, you ass."



Chaim Herzog

to pepper his chapters with the stories of small forces.

He recalls with horror the story of Lt. David Abu-Dirham, who desperately led the battle against Egyptian forces at his Suez Canal position of Orkal, only to be wounded and captured during an attempted evacuation.

The amazing story of the 7th Brigade's stand against the Syrian onslaught reads like fiction.

At times Herzog turns his prose into stiff, terse writing, almost making the reader feel as if he is reading actual intelligence reports: "2:55 - A report arrived that four Syrian helicopters loaded with troops of a Syrian commando battalion were approaching the

HERZOG uses data to provide perspective. For example, he notes that on the evening before the war broke out, Israel had 177 tanks and 11 batteries of artillery on the Golan Heights.

The Syrians had over 900 tanks and 140 batteries of artillery and another 600 tanks in reserve. In fact, the Arab force which launched the attack on Israel was roughly the same size as NATO's European forces.

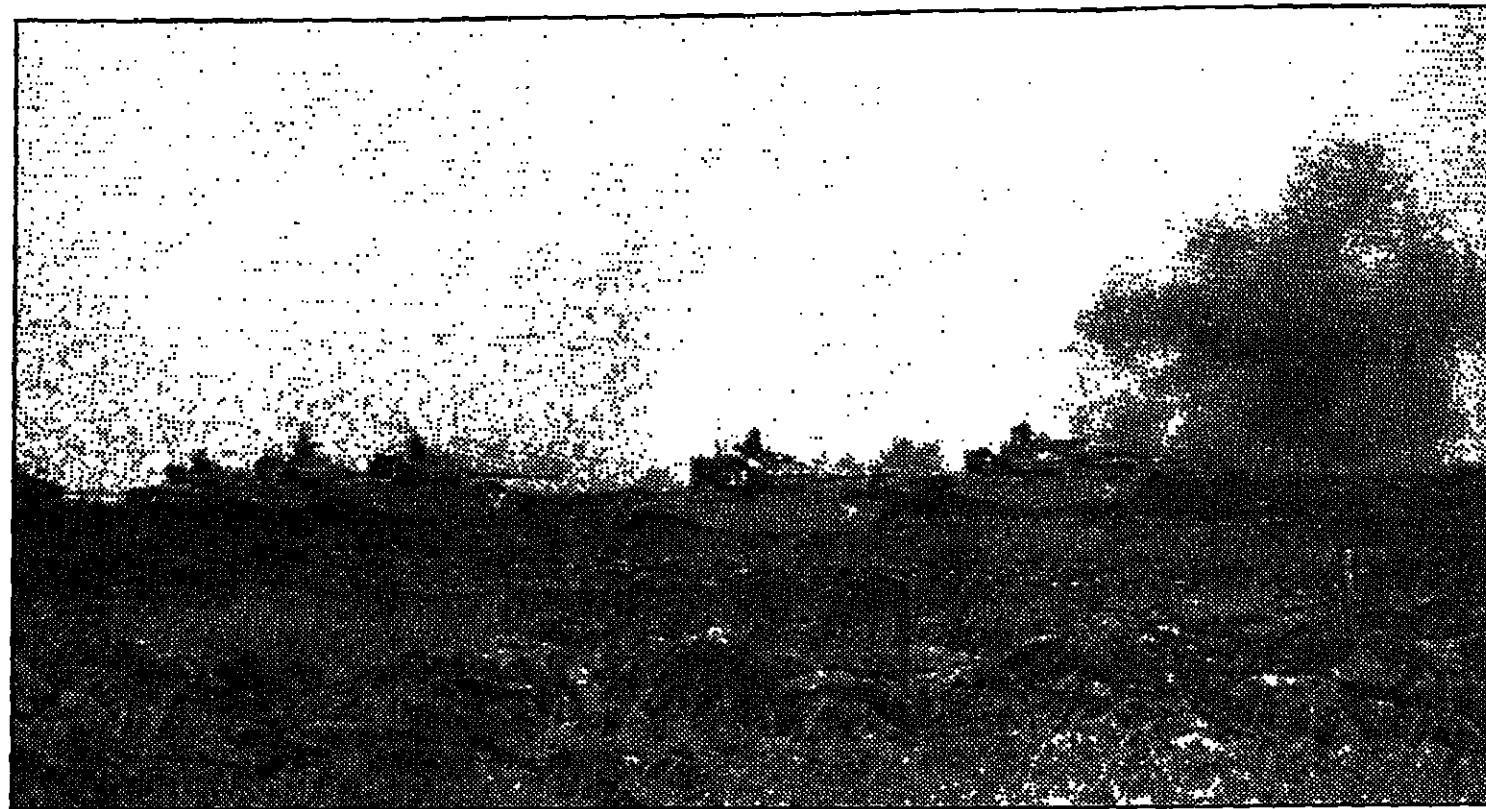
Herzog informs us that the Syrians lost a total of 1,150 tanks; 867 of them were recovered by Israel, many of them in good running order. An estimated 3,500 Syrian soldiers were killed. Israel lost some 250 tanks and 772 soldiers fell on the Golan.

The Egyptians lost 264 Soviet-built tanks in one day. Unfortunately, Herzog did not tally the losses on the southern front.

The nine maps in the book are excellent. They give most geographical locations and unit names mentioned in the text without being too cluttered. One of the changes in this new edition is the moving of maps to near the relevant text, instead of being collected at the end of the book.

An interesting note: Of the 18 photos in the book, all but four are of generals. This is typical of the mindset of Herzog's generation - that the armies revolve around the generals.

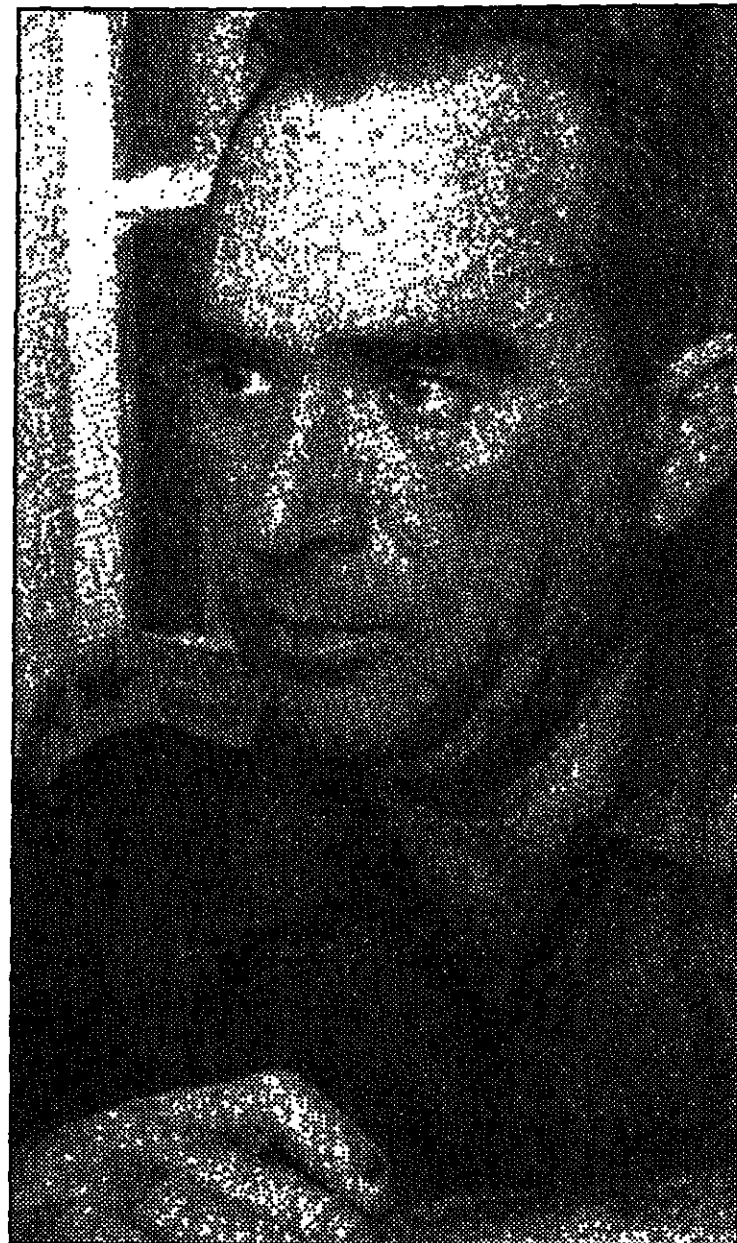
Noticeably missing is any men-



The evening before war broke out, Israel had 177 tanks and 11 batteries of artillery on the Golan Heights.



Ariel Sharon understood the enemy, Herzog says in his book, but he could be very unrealistic, taking risks Israel couldn't afford.



Gen. Rafael Eitan was put in charge of forces on the Golan; He was one of the few commanders who had prepared an answer to anti-tank missiles.

tion of Israel's nuclear policy and practice during the war. It is not clear whether this was the result of self-censorship.

THE final section of the book is perhaps the most prophetic, dealing with lessons learned.

Herzog foresaw the peace that was to be forged between Israel and Egypt. But he also saw how the Middle East was entering a phase of military sophistication that would eventually break the confines of the field of battle.

"Civilian populations will be exposed to no less a degree than

the military forces in any future war," Herzog wrote. That prophecy was to become reality during the Iraqi Scud attacks in the 1991 Gulf War.

Just as fascinating is the introduction by Michael Herzog, an IDF intelligence officer, who wrote that Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's successful policy of a limited military initiative aimed at motivating a diplomatic process "is still relevant to his Syrian colleague."

"Twenty-five years have passed since the war, and the question still remains as to whether and to

what extent Assad (one of the few leaders in the Middle East who has remained in power since then) has learned the lesson of Sadat's policy - of war and peace - and whether he will try to imitate it."

The War of Atonement did spur a change in Israel's military doctrine with its conclusions that maneuverability on the modern battlefield could be synergized with enhanced volume and precision of firepower. It also gave impetus to an integrated inter-force battle philosophy.

But the younger Herzog insists

that the "main message" of the book is that "man" is the key to victory, even in the era of technology.

One debatable point Col. Herzog makes in his introduction is his questioning of the depth of American backing, which he claims can no longer be taken for granted in any future war, as it was in 1973.

This book will appeal to all ages, from those who sent their sons to fight in that war, to those who, 25 years later, are seeking a grasp of this remarkable and traumatic period of Israel's history.



Generals Gonen (left) and Elazar with (right) Gen. Ezer Weizman listen to a briefing.

Lots of credit where it's due

I stared at the supermarket cashier in shock. I was having a hard time digesting what she had just asked me. So she repeated her question.

"Would you like to delay payment for your purchase until next year?" she inquired, peering over my mountain of groceries.

Apparently, this is how overenthusiastic the big supermarket chains have been getting in their quest to persuade us consumers to shell out the big bucks on supplies for the High Holy Days. It seems they have gone beyond the usual enticements, such as letting us split the bill into three, four, five, or even six smaller payments.

Nope, now they are willing to allow us to delay paying the entire bill until next year's holidays in a last-ditch effort to get us to splurge on designer apples and honey.

What a way to start the New Year - in debt. Somehow, I just couldn't resist delving into the logic behind this offer.

Indeed, holiday supermarket shopping has been unusually peaceful and calm this year. The aisles of the stores weren't in permanent gridlock, people weren't pushing and shoving and yelling in their traditional holiday fashion.

Home Front



Allison Kaplan Sommer

There were several theories for the slump - the first being that people were afraid because of the potential for terrorist attacks. That seems patently absurd. I don't know about most people,

but fear for my personal security has never kept me from buying vast quantities of food. Fear for my cholesterol level - yes. Fear of bombs - never.

Other explanations made a bit more sense: the growing number of people who decided to spend their holidays abroad instead of slaving over hot stove; the increased number of unemployed who aren't in the mood to shell out big bucks on their holiday celebrations, and the general atmosphere of the ongoing recession.

But the best and most hopeful explanation for the surprisingly

Why is the supermarket willing to gamble on my ability to pay this bill a year from now?

I looked the tired Russian immigrant cashier in the eye and asked her, "But who knows where I might be next year? I could run away to Fiji. I could be in jail. I might lose my life in a tragic boating accident."

"Are you sure you want to do this? Is the supermarket really willing to gamble on my ability to pay this bill a year from now?"

The cashier replied wearily, "I don't know, g'vorer. I guess the risk is simply worth the supermarket's while. Anyway, I don't make the policies, I just carry them out."

The impatient look in her eyes silently added: "And would you please get out of my face and let me do my job?"

Newspapers were reporting shortly before Rosh Hashana that the major supermarket chains are not happy with the way this holiday season has been going. Their headaches have been the source of our pleasure.

civilized atmosphere in the supermarkets is a long-term change in Israeli consumer habits.

Maybe it truly has happened: With an increased number of supermarkets more widely available, the ability to order groceries over the phone or even the Internet, greater competition and longer opening hours, we have learned to shop in a more relaxed fashion.

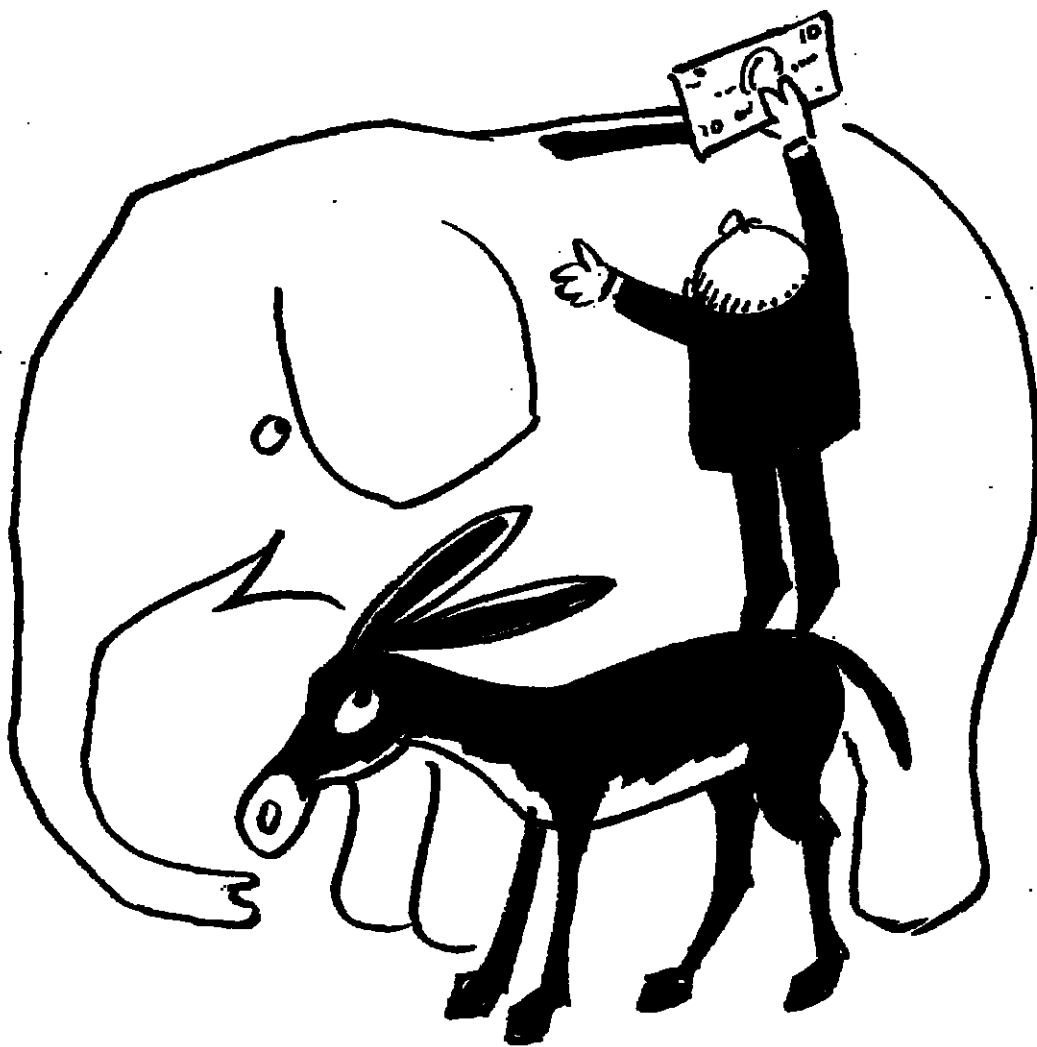
Whatever the reason, it has been lots more fun to be a consumer these days, with what our local markets raffish off new automobiles and excursions abroad in order to attract shoppers, and pulling "Buy 10, get the 11th free" deals out of their hats to get us to spend money freely on groceries.

And if we only have to pay for it a year from now, that leaves me 12 whole months during which I can try to win the lottery to cover the cost of all this food.

'Like a little trip to Vegas'

An Iowa business school's Web site lets you wager on US elections - and it's fully legal.

Geoffrey C. Upton reports



MEIR RONNEN 98

Still think the Democrats will pull off a miracle and win back control of Congress this November?

You can bet on it. For a decade, the University of Iowa's business school has operated a set of on-line futures markets that ignore the traditional lumber, orange juice and pork bellies in favor of politicians.

The markets, which exist solely on the World Wide Web (www.biz.uiowa.edu/tem) are played with real money, real elections and real investors. You can put your political forecasting acumen on the line and back it with cold cash.

Thanks to President Bill Clinton's sex scandal, the market has been unusually active in recent weeks, with GOP contracts spiking. The release of special prosecutor Kenneth Starr's report was expected to make the action even hotter.

"We've been seeing the Republicans' chances improve over the last 10 days. Right now we're saying there's an 80 percent chance the Republicans will increase their [Congressional] seats in November," said Bob Forsythe, an Iowa business professor and one of the market's founders.

HERE'S how it works: Traders buy and sell contracts that predict a political outcome - say, a candidate winning his party's presidential nomination. Each contract costs anywhere from a fraction of a penny to a dollar.

Contracts widely considered to be winners - for example, Republicans keeping control of the Senate - are in high demand and thus expensive.

But the lower you buy, the more you stand to gain if the improbable happens. A contract on Democrats taking control of the Senate this fall would run for 1.5 cents.

You can sell that contract for a profit if its price rises - that is, if more people begin predicting a Democratic takeover. Or you can hold the contract till Election Day. If the Democrats do seize the Senate, you'd get \$1 back - like hitting a long shot at the track.

Better yet, if you were to buy 500 of those contracts, at a total cost of \$750, your return would soar to \$500. Invest \$500 in the Democrats and your payback would be \$35,700.

But that's a big "if." That's how it appeared to trader Peter Beresolos of Knoxville, Tenn., who said the odds are tempting, but conceded that a Democratic contract "would be a long shot at best."

To initiate a transaction, investors like Beresolos just log on and punch a few keys. Bids and asking prices are updated instantaneously and reported on the Web every 15 seconds. There is no middleman to

take a commission, and payments are handled by the university.

"It's just like a little trip to Vegas," said William Hodess, a professor at the Indiana University School of Law. "It's just sort of fun."

Still, the markets are fully legal, run as a nonprofit enterprise authorized by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

The markets were launched in 1983 by four Iowa professors to test a hypothesis: that the free market could pick a winner more accurately than opinion polls.

They turned out to be right: In 1988 and 1992 presidential contests, the markets beat every major national poll, predicting the winner's margin within two-tenths of a

percentage point.

JACK Wright, one of the founders, says the markets' ability to pick winners is no surprise.

"The market requires people to put their money where their mouth is," said Wright, a professor of political science at George Washington University.

In polls, Wright said, people often feel pressured to utter an opinion that may not be fully formed. "Either inadvertently or inadvertently, they're not always providing truthful responses," he said.

In the market, by way of contrast, investors are judging how everyone else is likely to vote. Cold calculation crowds out emotion.

"In a market, your preferences

should not weigh in at all," Wright said. "You should be trading with your head instead of your heart."

In 1996, more than 7,000 traders took part and \$200,000 changed hands, all legally, thanks to a 1993 ruling by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission granting Iowa a standing "letter of no-action."

That means the government waives its right to regulate on the grounds that "the operation of these markets is limited to academic research and experimental purposes" and that the directors "do not receive any profit or compensation for its operation."

Forsythe, senior associate dean at Iowa's College of Business Administration, argues that wagering on political futures is no differ-

ent from betting on the price of wheat in four months on a futures exchange in Chicago.

Noting that researchers have cited data from the markets in nearly a dozen academic papers, Forsythe defends his creation as a "great pedagogical product" increasingly used by other schools to stimulate interest in finance.

In fact, the federal Education Department has awarded the University of Iowa \$443,000 to help bring the markets to minority colleges.

TRADERS say they see no real distinction between the Iowa markets and types of betting that are illegal in many states, including Internet gambling, which Congress has recently moved to outlaw.

One trader has won as much as \$2,700, Forsythe said, and another made \$2,000 on an investment of \$150.

"It's pure gambling, no question about it," said Boston engineer Sal Giglia, an avid investor.

Olaf Vancura, a trader who has taught a course on casino gambling at Tufts University and works for a Las Vegas gaming company, said he considers the markets a form of "educated gambling" just like the stock market.

Like the stock market, Vancura said, "If you know more or have better use of the information you have, then you'll do better than your opponents."

Traders agree that profit is not their ultimate motivation in the political futures market - even traders who bought Republican contracts the day the Lewinsky scandal broke.

"The whole thing is a game," Giglia said. "You're not going to retire on your earnings from this thing."

Hodess, the Indiana law professor, has about \$50 in the markets, but was a political junkie long before they came along. The markets, he said, let him feel like an armchair pundit as he watches CNN and scrutinizes political magazines.

"You get a good feeling that you're sort of a clever analyst" if you wager correctly, Hodess said. "You think, 'Hey, maybe I should be writing for those magazines.'"

Because this isn't a presidential election year, traffic has been lower than in 1996. But Forsythe says organizers have considered starting a Clinton impeachment futures market that might be more popular than betting on Congress.

For now, however, the Iowa markets are sticking with electoral politics.

Markets for select gubernatorial and Senate races should open soon, and shortly before Election Day this fall, bidding will begin on the 2000 presidential race.

"I'll be in" that market, Giglia said, "if I don't lose all my money on this one." (The Baltimore Sun)

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My gallivanting girlfriend

Dear Ruthie,
When I met my girlfriend, she told me she was planning a three-month trip to the Far East with a male friend. They had been saving money for it over the past year, after their studies and before looking for a job.

When she and I met about eight months ago her trip seemed far off in the future; but now it is a few weeks away, and I am very angry that she still wants to go.

The guy she's going with is obviously interested in her sexually - it's obvious from the way he looks at her. He acts as if he's got dibs on her friendship, because of their shared history. I also know they've slept together before, because she told me about it. So I am not only angry but afraid of what will happen between them. My girlfriend says she loves me - but how can I believe her if she still insists on going on the trip?

Now my problem is whether to wait for

her - I mean, whether to remain faithful. This is what she wants me to do, though I don't see how she can expect it when she's going off with another man, one who clearly doesn't want their relationship to remain platonic.

Tripped Up
Somewhere in Israel

Dear Tripped Up,
What emerges from your letter is that you are busier focusing on what the other two members of this triangle feel than on asking yourself what you really want.

The details of your story, in themselves, are cause for neither optimism nor pessimism where your relationship with your girlfriend is concerned. That she is still close to a man with whom she had sex in the past is not necessarily indicative of her rela-

tion to him now. The fact that she became involved with you while planning and saving up for a long trip with him suggests either that she is no longer interested in him sexually - and wanted to make this clear prior to their joint venture/adventure - or that she is using each of you to protect herself from the other.

Dear Ruthie



Ruthie Blum

The fact that this other man has designs on her is irrelevant. If your girlfriend does not reciprocate, the issue is moot. If she does, this is something you and she will have to deal with when she returns.

To expect your girlfriend to forfeit a trip she has been planning for long before she met you is as unrealistic as it is counterproductive. Sacrifice does not constitute love; it only points to dependency and fear - two things

which have no place in a healthy relationship.

This applies to whether you should remain faithful to her as well. Forcing yourself to "wait" for her will contribute nothing to subsequent relations. On the contrary, if you find that you are not interested in other women while she is away, this will have far greater emotional consequences for both of you.

Rather than being angry about this imminent trip, then, you would do better at this point to figure out what you feel and what you want.

Use this woman's absence as an opportunity for reflection and understanding, instead of as a crutch for self-pity - and you will come out a winner, whatever happens later.

Letters should be addressed to: 'Dear Ruthie,' POB 81, Jerusalem 91000. For e-mail: ruthie@jpost.co.il ('Dear Ruthie' also appears in *In Jerusalem* and in *City Lights on Fridays*.)

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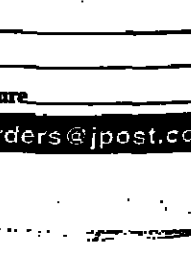
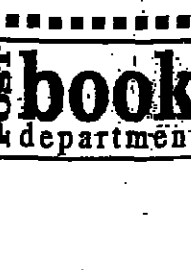
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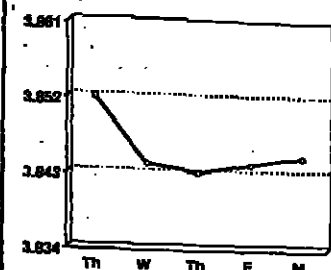


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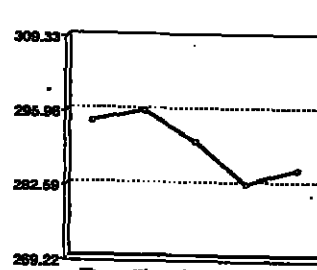
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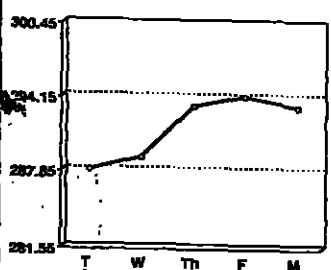


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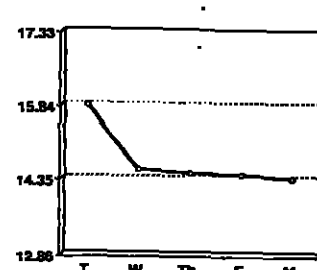
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\$ per ounce

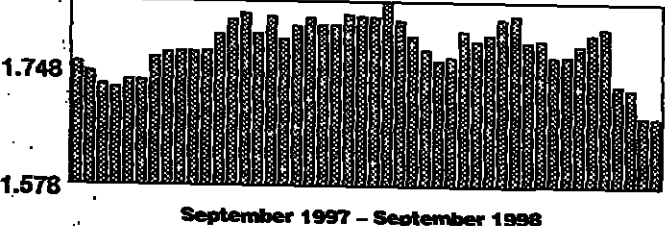


OIL

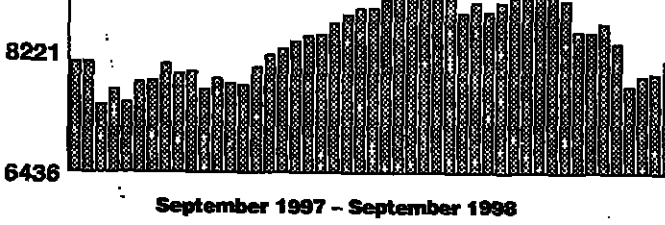
\$ per barrel of Brent crude



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DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



Treasury temporarily lifts tomato tariff

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman yesterday signed an ordinance removing import duty on tomatoes for the duration of the holiday season. The decision was taken after tomato prices skyrocketed, because of a shortage of supply. Crops were badly affected by the recent heat waves. The Treasury believes the temporary move will lead to a 20 percent-30 percent cut in prices, which currently average some NIS 11 a kilogram.

David Zev Harris

Sharansky to miss EuroMed conference

By DAVID ZEV HARRIS

The industry and trade ministers of 26 European and Mediterranean countries, including Syria, will meet this weekend in Austria, but Natan Sharansky will not be present, because of what his aides described as "religious reasons," given that the two-day meeting includes Shabbat.

While both Jerusalem and Brussels dismissed suggestions that Israel is not sending another minister to the forum, which will be attended by many Arab states, for political reasons, this is not the first time the Netanyahu government is refraining from sending a minister to the forum, which was established during the previous government's term in office.

At the last Euro-Mediterranean Partnership event, in Palermo in June, Israel sent Foreign Ministry Director General Eytan Bentsur, rather than Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu or any other cabinet member.

A European Union representative said the Foreign Ministry had requested the date of the Austrian meeting be altered, but the EU said it was impossible to change the date at a late stage, given the amount of organization required.

"The main thing is that Israel will be at the meeting," said one

Foreign Ministry official. "The importance of the event is its very existence."

A year ago the planned trade ministers' gathering scheduled for Marrakech, Morocco, was canceled, in the light of the political uncertainty.

At this year's gathering, Israel will be represented by Industry and Trade Ministry Director General Dov Mishor, the head of his Middle East desk Gabi Bar, and Bar's counterpart in the Foreign Ministry, Mark Sofer.

"The idea of this meeting is to increase industrial cooperation both regionally and between the two regions, Europe and the Mediterranean," Bar said.

In the longer-term, the EuroMed countries are working toward the creation of a free trade area by 2010.

While the issues of rules of origin and cumulation are not on the agenda, Bar said he is sure these matters will be discussed. Israel is currently in a trade dispute with the EU over its use of "made in Israel" labeling for goods partly or wholly manufactured in the territories. At the same time Jerusalem will use the meeting to call on the EU to offer reduced-tariff status for goods jointly produced in Israel and the PA or neighboring countries.

Banks leaning toward Lorenzi rescue plan

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Embattled diamond merchant Yossi Lorenzi's creditor banks are inclined to approve a bailout plan prepared by the management of the Diamond Exchange in Ramat Gan, although they intend to introduce several changes in the agreement, banking sources yesterday said.

They added, however, that details have not yet been worked out and that negotiations are expected to continue. The compromise agreement calls for Lorenzi to pay part of his debt while postponing the rest of the payments for a period of up to three years.

The plan needs to receive the approval of creditors Bank Leumi, Israel Discount Bank, and United Mizrahi Bank, whom Lorenzi owes roughly \$60 million.

The willingness of the banks to approve the deal also depends on the quality of the collateral they received from Lorenzi when he first borrowed from them. According to an industry source,

Bank Mizrahi may oppose the plan, since it has the best collateral.

The plan was already approved by diamond dealers whom Lorenzi owes over \$30m. Those dealers, who have no collateral whatsoever, were compelled to accept the bailout plan hoping to see at least part of their loans back.

The sources estimated that, even if an agreement is reached, Lorenzi will have difficulties paying all his debts, as he is not expected to regain his position as one of the country's leading diamond dealers.

Lorenzi Diamonds was ranked last year as Israel's third-largest diamond producer, with exports of over \$176.8m., and since then expanded to become the second largest exporter.

Under the terms of the proposed agreement, company owner Yossi Lorenzi will pay part of his debt in cash and the rest in diamonds. He may face difficulties obtaining enough cash from the sale of dia-

monds, however, as dealers will use the opportunity to buy diamonds at lower than market value. They added that even if the banks decide to use the assurances they have, they will still have to sell the diamonds at a price which is below market value.

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GE, Gilat in share-swap deal

Gilat to purchase GE satellite unit, GE to hold 30% of Gilat

By DAN GERSTENFELD

GE American Communication, a subsidiary of US-based General Electric Capital Company, is to become a 30-percent shareholder in Gilat Satellite Networks.

The move will turn it into the Petah-Tikva based company's largest shareholder, while GE subsidiary Spacenet is to become a fully owned Gilat subsidiary, following a share-swap deal between GE and Gilat announced by the companies yesterday.

The deal will become effective once Israeli and US regulators approve it.

GE American Communication, Spacenet's parent company, will receive in return five million newly-issued shares of Gilat, which values the deal at some

\$227.5m, based on the \$45.5 per share closing price of Gilat's equity on New York on Friday.

GE will also hold two out of seven seats on Gilat's board of directors.

Spacenet, which is headquartered in McLean, Virginia, has 120 customers in 41 countries. The company provides global communications networks and services.

The new subsidiary will continue to support its previous products and will turn Gilat into one of GE American Communication's largest customers.

Its products will continue to display the GE logo together with Gilat's logo for the next three years.

"Gilat has been Spacenet's primary product provider since Spacenet's inception,"

said John Connelly, chairman and CEO of GE American. "The combined company will have superior reach, distribution and product position, which will allow it to compete successfully in any part of the world."

Gilat Chairman and CEO Yoel Gat said the merger should help Gilat realize its goal of becoming the world's leading VSAT (very small aperture terminal satellite earth stations) company.

GE American Communications, a subsidiary of GE Capital, is one of the world's largest satellite operators and a pioneer in satellite distribution of television programming.

The company operates 11 satellites providing services to North America, Europe and the Middle East. The company plans

that in 1999 its satellite services will be able to reach 80% of the world's population.

Gilat is a maker of satellite-based communications services, hub equipment and related software products.

In December 1996, the company acquired Skydam Inc., a Florida-based VSAT company specializing in the paging and data broadcast markets.

The company also holds a minority share in Global Village Telecom, which specializes in the operation of satellite-based rural telephony networks.

In addition, the company is involved in a joint venture with Singapore-based Keppel Communications, which is dedicated to providing satellite-based telecommunication services in China.

Jobless increase pace slows down

By DAVID ZEV HARRIS

The growth in unemployment slowed in July, according to data released yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

The figure for July put joblessness at 9.1 percent, with the previous three months' totals being amended downward to 8.9% in April, and 9% in both May and June.

"While we are talking about a slow increase in the trend figure, if this trend continues for a few months we'll be able to talk about stability and maybe even a downturn," a bureau official said yesterday.

The increase reflected in the data follows a leap from 8.2% in December 1997 to 8.9% in April.

The bureau's statistics also suggest the number of salaried workers increased by an annual 1% during July and August, after having registered little change in that category since the beginning of the year.

The bureau admits that in recent months the main economic indicators have shown "extreme fluctuations," making it difficult to chart the exact progress of the economy.

This rider comes as politicians, academics, and journalists attempt to assess the current state of the economy, with inflation on a downward slide but unemployment having risen sharply in recent months, the deficit in the balance of payments having been brought under control but economic growth virtually disappearing.

Growth in industrial production was cut in the second quarter to an annualized 3% from the 5%-6% during the first three months. Production through June was particularly high in the electricity, electronics, plastics, and chemical industries. There were declines in textiles and clothing. Since March there has been an increase in company spending on investment goods, following a decline in this area, which began a year ago.

In August, sales in chain stores increased 5% as opposed to rises of 3% in July and 2% in both May and June. This reflects a general trend whereby more consumers are making their purchases in chain stores, which account for about 25% of all retail sales, according to the bureau.

Exports of goods (excluding diamonds) shrank in the May to August period, following relatively high increases from January to April.

The consumer price index, meanwhile, increased at an annual 6% in the last two months, compared to 4% between May and June, 3% in April, and 2% during the first quarter.



Japan Leasing Corp. president Hiroaki Okamoto announces in a press conference in Tokyo yesterday that his financial institution, an affiliate of the ailing Long Term Credit Bank, has filed for court protection with 2.19 trillion yen (\$16 billion) in debts. (AP)

Japan government, opposition agree on plan for takeovers of failed banks

TOKYO (Reuters) - Japan's ruling and opposition parties yesterday reached agreements on key banking sector issues, possibly clearing the way for parliament to pass vital financial legislation by the end of the current session.

Japanese media said an agreement between the opposition and Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi's government would allow capital injections into banks that take over failed banks.

The reports said the Finance Ministry would in the future have to share financial planning power with a new independent body, the Financial Revival Committee.

Doubts remained, however, over what steps would be agreed to deal with weak but solvent banks that might need public fund injections to boost their capital.

News of the deal overcame market gloom from the announcement of the country's biggest financial bankruptcy.

Japan Leasing Corp, a nonbank affiliate of the troubled Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan, filed for bankruptcy on Sunday with debts of 2.18 trillion yen (\$16.1 billion).

Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said the banking bill deal outweighed the negative impact Japan Leasing's failure.

"With enactment [of the bills] to stabilize

the financial system as a whole ensured in the current session of parliament, the psychological effect of the agreement will be greater than the adverse effect of the Japan Leasing failure," he said.

Miyazawa said the new legal framework would promote reorganization in the financial industry, such as a tie-up between medium-sized city banks that was announced on yesterday.

Tokai Bank Ltd said it had agreed with Asahi Bank Ltd on a comprehensive alliance to integrate their businesses that might include forming a joint holding company.

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Think simple

WASHINGTON — Wall Street wants you to believe that investing is a black art, practiced best by brilliant seers, wizards, geniuses or, in novelist Tom Wolfe's phrase, "masters of the universe." Baloney.

Investing is actually simple. The experts — especially when they become convinced of their own genius — get into trouble by making it complicated. The lesson for small investors is to buy good companies at good prices and hold onto them for a long time. That's it. Stay from this path at your own peril.

Two recent examples of experts gone wrong are: 1) a high-flying bond trader whose hedge fund is about to crash and burn and 2) a quintet of mutual-fund experts who have been making embarrassing selections for the past five years.

The bond trader is John Meriwether, the Wall Street archetype for Wolfe's "Bonfire of the Vanities," and Michael Lewis' "Liar's Poker." Meriwether's firm is now on the verge of collapse, and when the story of its travails broke last week, it helped drag the Dow Jones industrial average down 152 points.

Meriwether left Salomon Brothers in 1991 in the wake of a bond-trading scandal. Three years later, he started his own firm, Long-Term Capital (LTC), with what *Business Week* called a "dream team of high-tech traders," including Nobel economists Robert Merton and Myron Scholes, and David Mullins, former vice chairman of the Fed.

LTC's idea was to exploit tiny anomalies, or supposed glitches, in the market. The precise niche was a computer-assisted arbitrage strategy called "convergence trading" — finding thin spreads between different types of bonds and currencies, then speculating that those spreads would narrow or disappear over time.

For instance, Meriwether's men apparently thought the gap between the value of the US dollar and the British pound had grown too large, so they made bets on derivatives that would pay off if the gap shrank back to the historic average. That hasn't happened; in fact, the gap has grown larger.

In the 1994 *Business Week* article, Mullins says he left the Fed to join LTC partly because he admired Meriwether's ability to harness the ups and downs of the market. "Risk management is the key to success."

Those words have more than a touch of irony today, with the fund down 44 percent in August alone, and its total capital (the investors' own stake) reported to be depleted from \$4.8 billion at the start of the year to just \$600 million today. While "convergence" or "directionless" trades like the dollar-pound bet don't sound risky, the only way to make big money at this game is to borrow heavily so that you can make enormous investments and score millions on one-penny moves. LTC's positions at times exceeded \$100 billion — or as much as 50 times its capital.

In the end, Meriwether's "dream team" proved to be too clever by half. Even the good years weren't so impressive. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, LTC returned 43%, after fees, in 1995; 41% in 1996; and 17% in 1997. That's a total gain of 135.4%. Sounds great, until you realize that the Standard & Poor's 500-Stock Index returned almost as much — 117%.

Better yet, why didn't the geniuses at LTC do something stupid like putting all their clients' money into shares of General Electric Co., the largest stock on the New York exchange? GE returned 195% between 1995 and 1997, or half again as much as LTC's clever trades.

(And GE is up 11% in 1998.) FOR the second example of experts gone wrong, let's turn to *The New York Times*. Five years ago, the *Times* came up with an interesting idea: Give an imaginary \$50,000 to five experts. Have each allocate the money to mutual funds, switching (if they want) every three months.

The results: miserable beyond imagination.

Over the full period, from July 7, 1993, to June 30, 1998, the Vanguard Index fund, which simply owns all the stocks in the S&P average and

charges minimal expenses (since it lacks a real-live manager), returned 186%. So a \$50,000 investment stashed in the fund became \$143,000 — a profit of \$93,000.

But the best of the experts — Sheldon Jacobs, editor of the *No-Load Fund Investor*, a newsletter based in Irvington, N.Y. — managed profits of only \$63,000, or 32% less than the gain of the dumb old Index 500 fund.

Another participant in the *Times* exercise, Susan Dziubinski, editor of *Morningstar Fund Investor*, had the misfortune of taking over for her boss, John Rekenhaller. The *Morningstar* pair

increased their portfolio by just \$48,000, a gain of 96%, or roughly half that of the index fund. Dziubinski chose nine funds for the most recent quarter, and eight of them posted losses, for a net decline of 4.1%, even though the S&P

gained 3.3%. Eric Kobren, editor of *Fidelity Insight* in Wellesley, Mass., restricted himself to Fidelity funds, in which he is supposed to excel. But his holdings rose by only \$59,000 for the five-year period, trailing the index fund by 37%.

The other two fund pickers — investment advisers Jack Brill of San Diego and Harold Evensky of Coral Gables, Fla. — boosted their portfolios by just \$53,000 and \$38,000, respectively, finishing 43% and 59% behind the index fund. (Brill chose only funds that specialize in "socially responsible" stocks.) In fact, the results were even worse since the *Times* did not count commissions (or loads) for the funds that charged them, nor did it include fees that would presumably be assessed by some of these experts for their advice.

What makes the results particularly disturbing is that Jacobs and Kobren publish highly regarded newsletters, and *Morningstar* is a superb research service. In his most recent letter to shareholders, Robert Torrey, manager of the Bethesda, Md.-based Torrey Fund, says that "these experts are as knowledgeable about mutual funds as anyone in the country." Yet their results "are shocking."

Torrey argues that investors who follow the ever-changing choices of experts like these are running a big risk — similar to the risks of investors in Long-Term Capital. He describes that risk as "overdiversification, trading, with its attendant tax bills, and the grind of fees and other expenses that attach to so many of today's investment products and programs."

He adds, "We think investors will substantially improve their prospects if they tune out the background noise, try not to watch the market too much and simply buy a few funds managed by experienced people with good reputations. The funds selected should follow a sound philosophy, have a solid long-term record, low turnover, reasonable expenses and not too much diversification." In other words, keep it simple — which is the lesson that Meriwether's crew also ignored.

Of course, Torrey has an axe to grind. He runs a mutual fund like the one he describes — a fund which, by the way, was not among the 43 (!) chosen by the five experts for the current quarter. With just 38 stocks in its portfolio and a turnover of a mere 12%, the Torrey Fund, according to *Morningstar*, has returned an annual average of 20% over the past five years, whipping the S&P by 1.3 percentage points, with 15% less risk.

There are other funds like Torrey to buy and hold. If you don't want to ferret them out, you can simply take the advice of the best investor of our age, Warren Buffett, chairman of Berkshire Hathaway Corp. "Most investors, both institutional and individual, will find that the best way to own common stocks is through an index fund that charges minimal fees. Those following this path are sure to beat the net results (after fees and expenses) delivered by the great majority of investment professionals."

They'll certainly beat the Master of the Universe and his dream team.

(Washington Post) The writer is a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.

Ways of Wall Street



By JAMES K. GLASSMAN

Will Euro car sales screech to a halt?

After five years of growth, the world's second-biggest auto market is headed for recession

By RUPERT SPIEGELBERG

PARIS — Europe's car industry is headed for recession, following five years of growth, as falling stock markets and slowing growth crimp spending, analysts said.

Sales in the world's second-biggest market — after the US — are likely to fall as much as 3 percent next year after rising 3% on average in each of the last five years. Sales this year are expected to reach a record 14 million cars.

"It's the end of the boom, there's no doubt about it," said David Leggett, the head of auto forecasting at the Economist Intelligence Unit, who sees European sales sinking to close to 13 million units annually by early next decade.

Fiat SpA, Europe's second-biggest carmaker, will be the biggest loser because sales in Italy are expected to slide with the end of Italian car-buying incentives. Broader signs of a slowdown will be visible at next week's Paris car show, where there will be a paucity of new models compared with the glitter of Europe's last major show, in Geneva last March.

Even as Europe's carmakers posted strong first-half earnings this summer, several signaled that the market was turning. BMW AG Chief Executive Bernd Pischetsrieder last month warned of a "crisis" in the European car market within the next two years, while Fiat Chief Executive Paolo Cantarella said the Italian company will have to offer financial incentives to prompt sales of the latest Punto, when it goes on sale in 1999.

The Dow Jones European Auto Index, Europe's fastest growing industry index in the first half of 1998, was among the worst performers in the third quarter, falling 29% as investors scale back earnings forecasts.

Economic growth in Germany and France, Europe's biggest economies, peaked at about 3.5% in the first half — its fastest annual rate this decade. Faster growth combined with new models — like the latest Volkswagen AG Golf, Adam Opel AG's Astra, Fiat's Punto and Renault SA's Megane Scenic — boosted sales in recent years.

A fall in financial markets worldwide since mid-July, however, has curbed consumer confidence and crimped consumer spending.

"The financial fallout will have a knock-on effect on luxury goods," said Arthur Maher, analyst at J.D. Power-LMC Automotive Services.

Expensive items like cars are usually the first to be deferred when consumer confidence wanes, prompting investors to sell stocks in car companies. BMW and Fiat both fell about 40% in the third quarter.

Concern about a slowdown has persuaded some of the region's

carmakers to seek alliances or mergers to diversify their geographic exposure and cut costs. Daimler-Benz AG, Europe's biggest manufacturing company, announced in May plans to buy America's Chrysler Corp. for about \$38 billion in stock.

Volkswagen, Europe's biggest carmaker, has expressed interest in buying Scania AB's truck unit and some investors expect Fiat to link with another carmaker — possibly PSA Peugeot Citroen SA, which would bring together the biggest carmakers in Italy and France.

"If they have to do something next it will be alliances or mergers," said Nigel Griffiths, the head European car analyst at Standard & Poor's DRI, who said he expects carmakers to focus less on developing new models.

The centennial Paris Car Show is expected to be notable for its

lack of new cars, in contrast to the wave of luxury cars and niche models that marked the Geneva show — such as Rolls-Royce Motor Cars Ltd.'s new Silver Seraph and super-luxury cars made by Daimler and Volkswagen.

Most conspicuous will be the lack of domestic exhibits as Germany's VW steals the limelight from Renault and Peugeot with the European debut of its new Beetle and the unveiling of a model to be built under the recently purchased Bugatti luxury brand.

VW will display its Lupo — its first entry into the market for smallest cars — as well as its Bora sedan and Seat Toledo sedan. Renault will settle for showing a redesign of its Twingo and a sportier version of its Clio hatchback. Peugeot will show off its latest 206, a competitor to the

VW Polo and Renault Clio, even though the model has been on sale since Sept. 10.

The slew of new products from VW reflects the success Europe's largest carmaker is enjoying this year as it brings out new models faster and in greater numbers than its rivals, analysts said. The carmaker is expected to continue to grab European market share from its competitors next year.

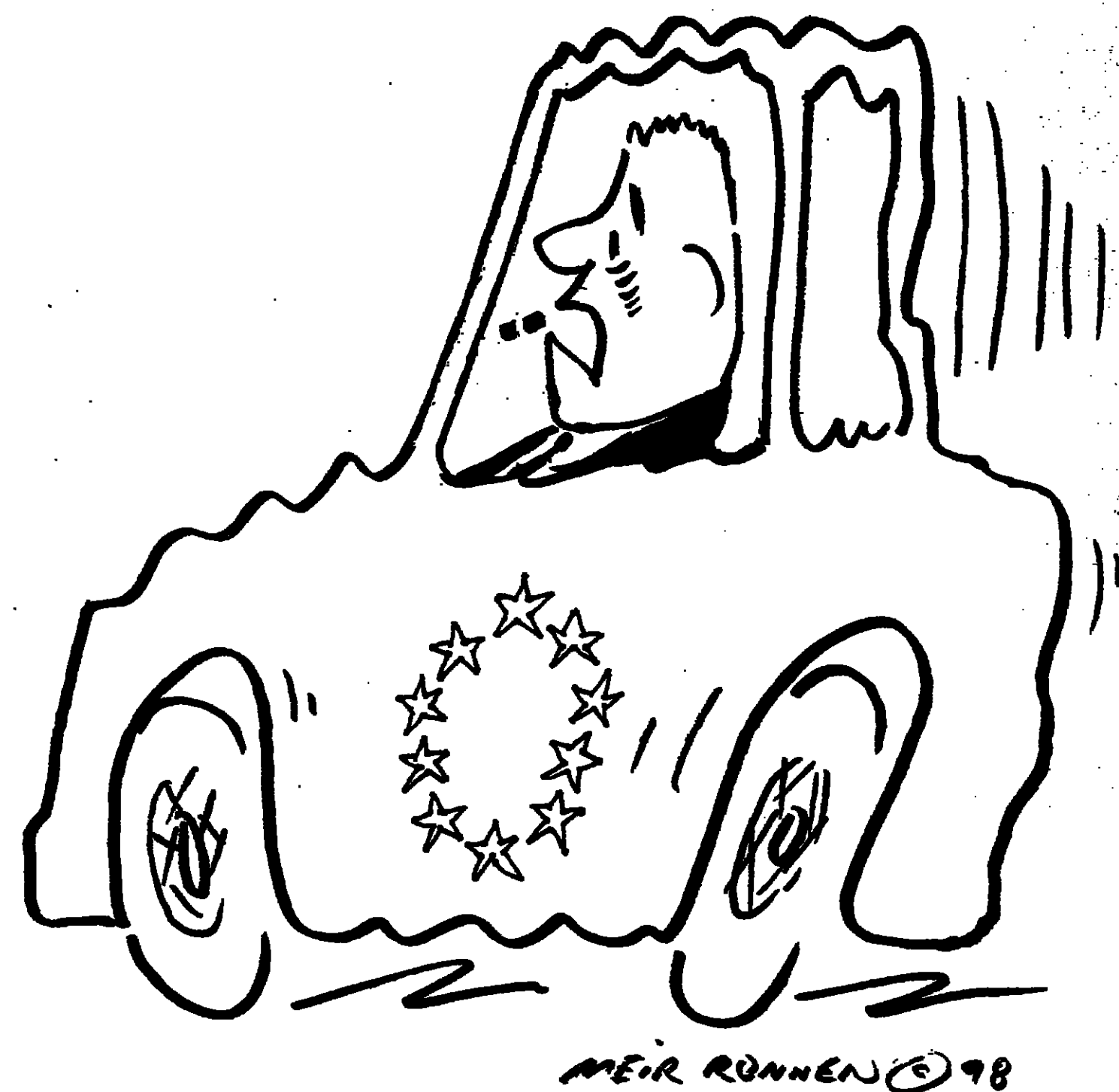
Life will be tougher for Fiat — owner of luxury brands such as Ferrari and Maserati as well as mass-market products — which will suffer from its exposure to the weakening Italian and Brazilian markets, its two biggest. The Italian market is expected to fall by up to 15% next year. And profit this year is likely to be lower than in 1997, the company warned.

"They are going to suffer the blow of a declining domestic

market, problems in Brazil and lack of new products," said J.D. Power's Maher.

Ford Motor Co., General Motors Corp.'s Vauxhall unit and BMW's Rover Group Plc, which account for about 40% of the UK market, will also be adversely affected by a decline of up to 10 percent in the British market next year, as Europe's third-biggest economy heads toward recession.

And with most of the rest of the world's economy slowing down, or in recession, cutting costs will be the only way to bolster earnings, analysts said. (Bloomberg)



Euro IPOs drying up amid mayhem

Companies are thinking twice about going public as investors seek safety in better-known stocks

PARIS — Companies that two months ago were rushing to sell shares to the public are getting cold feet as investors seek safety in stocks they know best.

Just one company — holding company Amvescap Plc — has managed to sell new shares on the Paris stock exchange so far this month, compared with a record 32 companies in June.

Tumbling share prices have prompted several European companies, including Transportes Azkar SA, a Spanish parcel delivery company, and Intrason SA, a French hearing aid maker, to suspend their initial public offerings this week.

"A sale is too uncertain at the moment," said Stephanie Douzezy D'Ollandon, chief financial officer of Intrason. "We've told investors: about us, and they have understood our potential."

"We don't now want to commit suicide on such a bad market," Spanish IPOs have been among the most affected in Europe as the benchmark IBEX index of the 35 most traded shares has fallen 25 percent from its July 17 high.

Early last week Azkar became the first Spanish company to suspend a share sale already in progress because of current market conditions.

Banco Bilbao Vizcaya SA plans to delay the sale of up to 25% of winery Bodegas y Bebidas SA, Corporacion Mapfre SA, Spain's largest insurer, postponed its plan for a share sale of its Mapfre Reinsurance unit.

"Given the level of volatility in the markets these IPOs are a little risky, so I think they did the right thing," said Jaime Nicolas, who helps manage

more than \$1.6 billion in funds at Sogeval. The long-term success of these smaller companies coming to market depends a lot on how well the IPO goes. It's still possible they could go ahead before the end of the year if things calm down."

Another winery, Federico Paternina SA, went ahead with its initial share sale earlier this month and the new shares have fallen 12% in a week of trading.

In Scandinavia there have been 64 IPOs so far this year, down from 89 by this time last year.

"It isn't as interesting to quote companies now as it was during the spring," said Nils Liljedahl of the Stockholm Stock Exchange's market surveillance department.

In Finland, the Finnish state this month postponed a 5 billion-markka (\$972 million) sale of a 25% stake in Fortum Oyj, a state-owned oil and utility company, because slumping markets had cooled investor interest.

Investors are shying away from IPOs opting for better-known stocks.

"In the current uncertain environment, we don't want to waste time betting on the unknown," said Laurent Tignard, who manages \$8b. at Axa Asset Management in Paris. "We prefer companies with proven track records and reliable management, and whose shares are now cheap."

Tignard said he's keen on

similar stocks that have fallen a lot like food maker Danone SA and drinks maker Pernod-Ricard SA. Danone is down 16% since reaching a 52-week high of 1,338 francs on July 17. Pernod is down 12% from its March 19 high of 465.

IPOs that did get off the ground recently have not all fared well. Italy's Banca Nazionale del Lavoro SpA's ordinary shares were suspended Sept. 21 after falling 12% on their first day of trading.

Quest For Growth, a Belgian venture-capital fund, raised 1.5 billion francs (\$43m.) in its initial public offering, lower than the 2 billion francs it planned to raise.

"If there are one or two unsuccessful IPOs, it may lead to the absence of more in future months," in Belgium, said Thierry Hazewinkel, an analyst at BNL-Vermeulen Raemdonck.

In Germany, biotechnology company Morphosys AG and PC-Spezialist Franchise AG recently canceled IPOs.

"Several companies are considering postponing their IPOs, especially those whose fundamentals need explicit explanation," said Kay Steffen, who works at the investment banking division of DKB Bank AG in Frankfurt.

As some companies balk at the prospect of an uncertain share sale, others are pressing ahead.

good chances," said DG Bank's Steffen.

In Belgium, Mobistar SA, Belgium's No. 2 mobile phone network operator, announced plans to sell 15% of its equity Monday.

"Mobistar will be in demand, even with the current downturn in the market, because it's in mobile phone services — a driver for growth," said Guy Desraigne, a fund manager at Dexiam Belgium. "Investors have been waiting for this."

With growth of about 3% across the 11 countries adopting the European common currency, the demand for new capital to fund company expansion is great.

"We will go public as long as the market doesn't collapse for good," said Alfred Bauer, chief executive of Articon Information Systems AG, a maker of network security systems which plans to sell shares on Frankfurt's Neuer Markt this year.

"The market is growing fast and for us to grow and win market share, we need additional capital."

France's stock exchange said an estimated 60 to 70 companies have expressed an interest in selling new shares by the end of the year.

"Postponing our IPO would be uncomfortable for us," said Jean-Claude Cornier, chairman of Thermocompact SA, a French metal and cable-coating company which plans to list on the Second Marche on Sept. 29. "We're going to use the 22 million francs raised to buy more machines. If we had to wait, it could take five years to meet our goals instead of four."

(Bloomberg)

In these times you cannot AFFORD to be without THE JERUSALEM POST

To Our Readers

Some of the advertisements appearing in our papers are type set outside The Post. When such an advertisement arrives just before the publication deadline, especially when it is provided in the form of a film, it is difficult for us to correct any spelling mistakes that may appear.

While we make every effort to correct such errors, we must ask our readers' indulgence for those occasions when this is not possible.

The Advertising Department

Green Bay Packers beat Carolina 37-30

CHARLOTTE, NC. (AP) — Overcoming a first half in which his two interceptions helped Carolina take a 10-point lead, Brett Favre threw for 383 yards and five touchdowns to rally the Green Bay Packers to a 37-30 victory Sunday.

Green Bay limited Carolina to 13 first downs, including just five in the first 52 minutes, helping the Packers to their first 4-0 start since 1966, the year they won the inaugural Super Bowl.

Favre, throwing for five scores for the third time in his career, completed 27 of 45 passes. He linked up with Derrick Mayes on three of the TD passes.

The Panthers (0-3) lost their fifth in a row at home.

Saints 19, Colts 13, OT
In Indianapolis, the boys from New Orleans came through, and we're not talking about Peyton Manning and Marshall Faulk.

Danny Wuerffel passed for touchdowns of 15 yards to Andre Hastings with 41 seconds left in regulation and 33 yards to Cameron Cleeland at 8:50 of overtime.

Manning and Faulk, both natives of New Orleans, appeared to have the game won for the Colts (0-4) with a 78-yard touchdown connection in the fourth quarter. But the Saints (3-0) got the ball back with 2:49 to go, converted a fourth-and-17 with a 44-yard completion to former Colt Sean Dawkins, and tied the game with the TD pass to Hastings.

Broncos 38, Redskins 16
In Landover, for the first time in nine years, the Broncos won a game without John Elway. Bubby Brister did the honors, even running the bootleg right — the play on which Elway injured his hamstring each of the last two weeks — to perfection for a touchdown pass. That started the unbeaten Super Bowl champions on their way to a 4-0 mark.

The Broncos have won nine straight and broke a 0-7 streak without Elway, who decided to rest his leg and did not suit up.

The last time the Broncos won without him was in 1989 at Washington behind Gary Kubiak, now Denver's offensive coordinator.

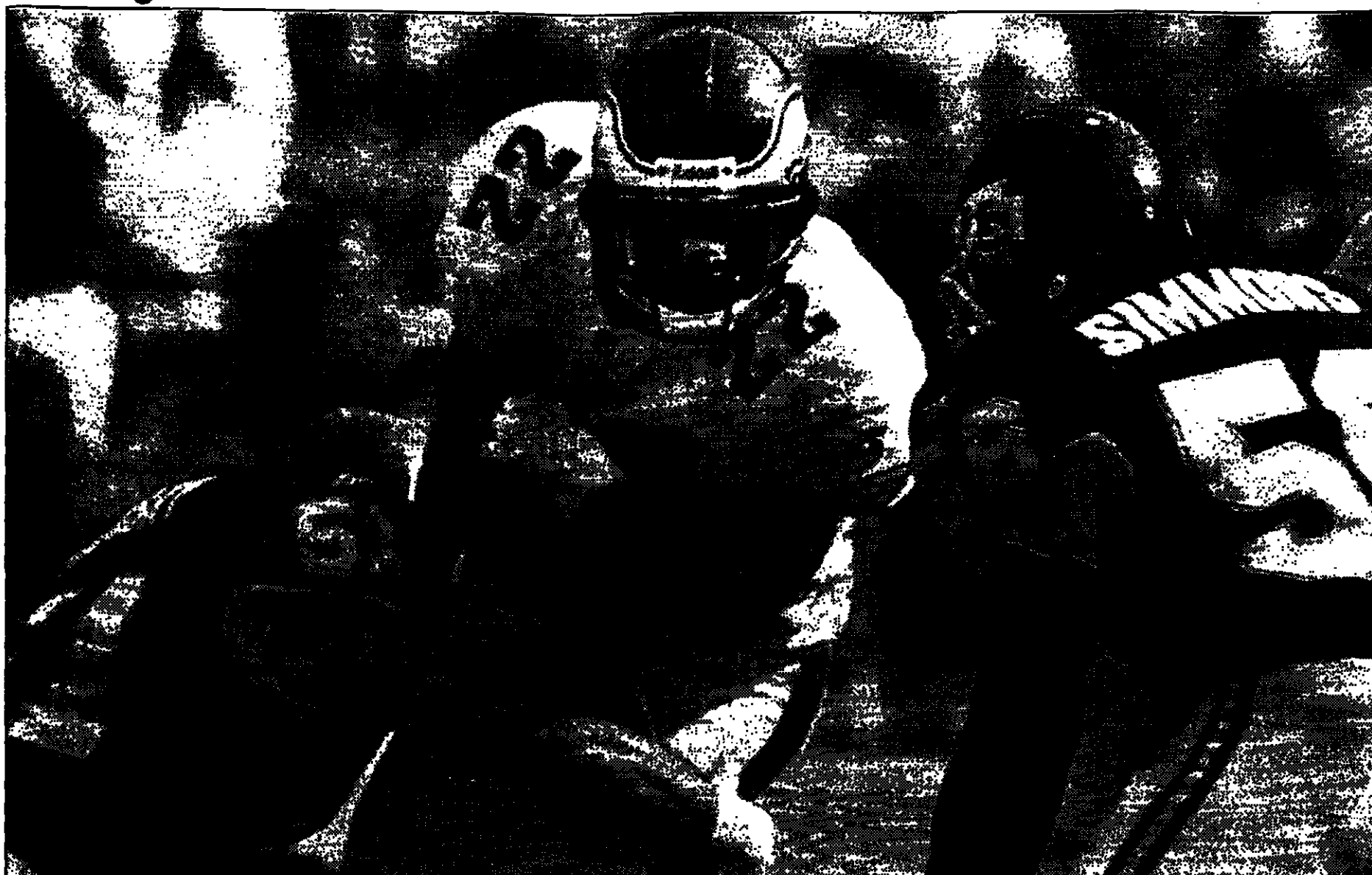
The Redskins (0-4) have been outscored 83-26 at home.

Raiders 13, Cowboys 12
In Irving, Texas, a lucky bounce on a 75-yard touchdown pass and two field goals by Greg Davis gave Oakland all the scoring it needed. Cornerback Charles Woodson also intercepted a pass by Jason Garrett in the end zone to stop another Dallas drive.

On third-and-12 with time running down in the first half, Jeff George heaved a long pass downfield in the direction of James Jett. The ball hit cornerback Kevin Smith in the left shoulder pad and bounced into the arms of Jett, who ran 30 yards untouched to complete the 75-yard touchdown play, longest of the season for Oakland (2-2).

Dallas (2-2) closed in when Garrett beat a blitz to hit Billy Davis with a 55-yard pass and Emmitt Smith scored on the next play from the 1.

Jaguars 27, Oilers 22
In Nashville, Mike Hollic kicked two field goals in the fourth quarter



Philadelphia Eagles' Duce Staley (22) is trapped by Kansas City Chiefs' Tim Grunhard (61) and Wayne Simmons (56) for no gain in Sunday's NFL action. (Reuters)

and rookie Fred Taylor rushed for 116 yards as the Jaguars came from behind for the best start in the team's short history.

On a day when Mark Brunell struggled and the Jaguars (4-0) turned the ball over three times, the defense led the way with four sacks and two interceptions against the Oilers (1-3). Eddie George was held to 25 yards on 14 carries.

Chiefs 24, Eagles 21
In Philadelphia, Philadelphia native Rich Gannon's 57-yard completion to Joe Horn in the fourth quarter set up Donnell Bennett's third touchdown run.

In the Chiefs' first visit to Philly, Gannon was 17-for-25 for 262 yards as Kansas City (4-0) won its ninth straight against NFC opponents.

The Eagles (0-4) are off to their worst start in 24 years.

They made it close when Rodney Peete passed to Duce Staley for a 17-yard TD with 61 seconds left. Staley had all three touchdowns for Philadelphia.

Cardinals 20, Rams 17
In St. Louis, Arizona scored 14 points in a 50-second span of the second quarter and won its St. Louis homecoming.

Joe Nedney's 29-yard field goal with 4:04 to play gave Arizona (2-2) its second straight win. The score was set up by a 43-yard pass inter-

ference penalty on Dexter McCleon.

The game was the Cardinals' first regular-season contest in St. Louis since owner Bill Bidwill took the team to Arizona from St. Louis following the 1987 season.

The Rams (1-3) lost their eighth straight home game, wasting a strong showing by rookie running back Robert Holcombe, who rushed for 84 yards and scored twice.

Steelers 31, Seahawks 10

In Pittsburgh, Jerome Bettis got the Steelers (3-1) back to what they do best by running for 138 yards. Bettis went over 100 yards for the 33rd time in his six-year career and the 23rd time with Pittsburgh by early in the third quarter.

Seattle (3-1), one of the NFL's surprise teams so far, couldn't overcome Bettis' big day, four touchdowns, as a seemingly ineffective running game as it was denied the first 4-0 start in franchise history. The Seahawks, with the AFC's leading rushing offense (158.3 yards per game), were held to 61 yards.

Vikings 31, Bears 28

In Chicago, Randall Cunningham connected on four TD passes to four receivers — Robert Smith, Chris Carter, Andrew Glover and Randy Moss — and cornerback Corey Fuller had a key interception.

Fuller intercepted what would have been a touchdown, and Moss

and Carter had TD receptions in a second half comeback for the Vikings (4-0). Smith, a running back also had a 67-yard catch for a score.

Moss and Carter have four TD receptions each this year.

Cunningham finished 16-of-25 for 275 yards. Erik Kramer was 25-of-29 for 372 yards and four scores for Chicago (0-4), which has led at half-time in all its games.

49ers 31, Falcons 20

In San Francisco, it doesn't get any simpler than Steve Young to Jerry Rice and it doesn't get any more breathtaking.

The dynamic quarterback-receiver tandem led another offensive show by the 49ers. Young ended the first offensive series with his 200th career touchdown pass, a 66-yarder to Rice. They teamed again just before half-time on a 26-yard pass as the 49ers (3-0) bolted to a 31-7 lead over Atlanta (2-1) and then coasted through a rainy second half.

It was the Falcons' seventh straight loss at San Francisco, during which they have been outscored 288-115.

Giants 34, Chargers 16

In San Diego, one week after a disastrous performance in the Kansas City rain, Ryan Leaf flopped again under the San Diego sun.

The rookie threw four interceptions in less than three quarters. He was benched following the final one,

which was returned 20 yards by Percy Ellsworth for a touchdown.

The Giants (2-2), coming off a 31-7 loss to Dallas on Monday night, had to travel cross-country on a short week. They played like the opportunistic Giants of 1997 in winning on the West Coast for the first time since beating San Francisco in the NFC championship game on Jan. 20, 1991.

Ravens 31, Bengals 24

In Baltimore, Priest Holmes, making his first NFL start, ran for 173

yards and two touchdowns and

Jermaine Lewis also scored twice.

The Ravens (2-2) scored on their first three possessions to go up 21-0, then held on after Cincinnati (1-3) twice cut the gap to four points.

Holmes scored on runs of 3 and 15 yards, and Lewis caught a 73-yard pass from Eric Zeier and returned a punt 87 yards.

Baltimore secured the victory with an 11-play drive after the Bengals used a 67-yard touchdown pass from Jeff Blake to Carl Pickens to make it 28-24.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Miami 3 0 0 1,000 58 22

New England 2 1 0 667 77 49

N.Y. Jets 1 2 0 333 84 66

Buffalo 0 3 0 206 54 63

Indianapolis 0 4 0 1,000 49 16

Central

Indianapolis 4 0 0 1,000 86 71

Indianapolis 3 1 0 750 50 56

Pittsburgh 3 1 0 500 78 78

Baltimore 1 3 0 250 78 95

Cincinnati 1 3 0 250 88 81

Tennessee 1 3 0 250 88 81

West

Denver 4 0 0 1,000 141 77

Seattle 3 1 0 750 105 41

Kansas City 3 1 0 750 91 57

Oakland 2 2 0 500 52 78

San Diego 2 2 0 500 52 78

West

Arizona 2 2 0 500 61 91

Dallas 2 2 0 500 104 72

N.Y. Giants 2 2 0 500 89 91

Philadelphia 0 4 0 200 36 96

Washington 0 4 0 200 64 138

Central

Green Bay 4 0 0 1,000 111 70

Minnesota 4 0 0 1,000 128 72

Tampa Bay 1 2 0 333 69 69

Detroit 3 0 0 200 53 101

Chicago 0 4 0 200 78 99

West

New Orleans 3 0 0 1,000 62 44

San Francisco 3 0 0 1,000 112 60

San Francisco 2 1 0 267 56 57

Atlanta 1 3 0 250 99 115

St. Louis 0 3 0 200 58 75

Carolina 0 3 0 200 58 75

Sunday's games: Arizona 20, St. Louis 17; Denver 38, Washington 16; Green Bay 37, Carolina 30; Jacksonville 27, Tennessee 22; Kansas City 24, Philadelphia 21; New Orleans 19, Indianapolis 13; OT, Oakland 13, Dallas 12; Pittsburgh 13, Seattle 10; St. Louis 31, Cincinnati 24; Baltimore 31, Cincinnati 24; Tampa Bay 13, Cincinnati 24; Monday's game: Tampa Bay at Detroit.

MAJOR LEAGUE LEADERS

NATIONAL LEAGUE

BATTING—Waller, Colorado, .333; Olerud, New York, .354; Bichette, Colorado, .331; Piazza, New York, .328; Kendall, Pittsburgh, .327; Biggio, Houston, .325; Vazquez, Montreal, .324.

RUNS—Sosa, Chicago, 132; McGwire, St. Louis, 130; Bagwell, Houston, 124; Chones, Atlanta, 123; Biggio, Houston, 122; Polk, Philadelphia, 120; Bonds, San Francisco, 120.

REB—Sosa, Chicago, 158; McGwire, St. Louis, 147; Castillo, Colorado, 144; Jeter, New York, 142; Burnitz, Milwaukee, 125; Alou, Houston, 124; Bichette, Colorado, 122.

HITS—Bichette, Colorado, 219; Biggio, Houston, 210; Castillo, Colorado, 206; Vazquez, Montreal, 202; Vito, Milwaukee, 198; DeBel, Houston, 198; Olerud, New York, 197.

HOME RUNS—McGwire, St. Louis, 70; Sosa, Chicago, 65; Glavine, San Diego, 50; Castillo, Colorado, 48; Galaraga, Atlanta, 44; Vazquez, Montreal, 38; Burnitz, Milwaukee, 38; Alou, Houston, 38.

STOLEN BASES—Worlock, Pittsburgh, 58; Biggio, Houston, 50; Eby, Los Angeles, 42; St. Louis, 40; Garciaparra, Boston, 39; Alou, Atlanta, 37; Floyd, Florida, 27.

PITCHING (18 Decisions)—Smoltz, Atlanta, 17-5, .850, 2.90; Glavine, Atlanta, 20-5, .769, 2.47; Alar, New York, 17-8, .738, 2.47; Gardner, San Francisco, 13-5, .722, 4.27; Kibrown, San Diego, 18-7, .720, 2.38; Reynolds, Houston, 19-8, .704, 3.51; Wood, Chicago, 13-6, .685, 4.01.

STRIKEOUTS—Schilling, Philadelphia, 300; Kibrown, San Diego, 257; Wood, Chicago, 233; Reynolds, Houston, 208; G. Maddux, Atlanta, 204; Park, Los Angeles, 191; Alar, New York, 174.

SAVES—Hoffman, San Diego, 33; Back, Chicago, 50; Shaw, Los Angeles, 48; Nen, San Francisco, 40; J. Franco, New York, 33; Urbina, Montreal, 34; Ligenberg, Atlanta, 30; B. Wagner, Houston, 30; Olson, Arizona, 30.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BATTING—Waller, New York, .333; M. Vaughn, Boston, .337; Belle, Chicago, .328; E. Davis, Baltimore, .327; Dieter, New York, .324; Garciaparra, Boston, .323; E. Martinez, Seattle, .322.

RUNS—Dieter, New York, 127; Durham, Chicago, 126; A. Rodriguez, Seattle, 123; Griffey Jr., Seattle, 120; Knoblauch, New York, 117; Edmonds, Anaheim, 115; J. Valentin, Boston, 113; Belle, Chicago, 113.

REB—J. Gonzalez, Texas, 157; Belle, Chicago, 152; Griffey Jr., Seattle, 148; M. Ramirez, Cleveland, 145; A. Rodriguez, Seattle, 124; T. Martinez, New York, 123; Garciaparra, Boston, 122.

HITS—A. Rodriguez, Seattle, 213; M. Vaughn, Boston, 205; Dieter, New York, 203; Belle, Chicago, 200; Garciaparra, Boston, 195; J. Gonzalez, Texas, 183; Olerman, Kansas City, 181; O'Neill, New York, 181.

HOME RUNS—Griffey Jr., Seattle, 56; Belle, Chicago, 49; Canseco, Toronto, 48; M. Ramirez, Cleveland, 45; J. Gonzalez, Texas, 45; R. Palmero, Baltimore, 43; A. Rodriguez, Seattle, 42.

STOLEN BASES—Henderson, Oakland, 66; Lofton, Cleveland, 54; Stewart, Toronto, 51; A. Rodriguez, Seattle, 48; Olerman, Kansas City, 45; B. Hunter, Detroit, 42; T. Gooden, Texas, 38.

PITCHING (18 Decisions)—Dwells, New York, 19-4, .818, 3.49; Clemens, Toronto, 20-6, .789, 2.65; Helling, Texas, 20-7, .741, 4.41; Cone, New York, 20-7, .741, 3.55; P. Martinez, Boston, 19-7, .731, 2.89; Baldwin, Chicago, 13-6, .884, 5.32; Wakefield, Boston, 17-8, .880, 4.58.

STRIKEOUTS—Clemens, Toronto, 271; P. Martinez, Boston, 251; Johnson, Seattle, 213; C. O'Leary, Anaheim, 212; Cone, New York, 209; Erickson, Baltimore, 186; F. Sasser, Seattle, 170.

SAVES—Gordon, Boston, 46; Porro, Anaheim, 42; Wetteland, Texas, 42; M. Jackson, Cleveland, 40; Aguilera, Minnesota, 38; M. Rivera, New York, 36; Montgomery, Kansas City, 35.

BASEBALL

Continued from Page 20

Padres 3, Diamondbacks 2

In Phoenix, Greg Vaughn became the fourth player to hit 50 homers this season and Trevor Hoffman got his major league-leading 53rd save.

Vaughn broke a 1-all tie in the eighth with a two-run shot off Aaron Small (3-1). Before this year, there had never been more than two 50-homer players in a single season.

Hoffman got three straight outs for his 53rd save in 54 chances, tying the NL saves record set by current teammate Randy Myers.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

Blue Jays 2, Tigers 1

In Toronto, Roy Halladay, pitching just his second major league game, came within one out of a no-hitter Sunday, losing his bid when pinch-hitter Bobby Higginson homered in the Toronto Blue Jays' 2-1 victory over the Detroit Tigers.

Halladay (1-0) earned his first victory in the majors, striking out eight and walking none. The 21-year-old right-hander was trying to become the first rookie to pitch a no-hitter since Wilson Alvarez did it for the Chicago White Sox against Baltimore in 1991.

Yankees 8, Devil Rays 3

In New York, Bernie Williams went 2-for-2 to win the AL batting title and rookie Shane Spencer hit his third grand slam in nine days.

In peak form for the start of the AL playoffs Tuesday night, the Yankees

(114-48) won their seventh straight. With a .704 winning percentage, New York became the first team since the 1954 Cleveland Indians (111-43) to play better than .700 ball over an entire season.

New York, which won the second-most games ever behind the 1906 Cubs (116-36), opens the postseason at home against Texas.

Williams had a pair of singles and a sacrifice fly to end the season with a .339 average — two points better than Boston's Mo Vaughn, who went 2-for-4.

Red Sox 6, Orioles 4

In Boston, Mo Vaughn drove in two runs with his 40th homer and a single but failed to overtake Williams. Vaughn also matched his career-high, 16-game hitting streak.

The Red Sox, who clinched the AL wild-card berth last Thursday, begin their first postseason series since 1995 at Cleveland on Tuesday, with Pedro Martinez (19-7) going against the Indians' Jace Wright (12-10). Boston (92-70) finished with its best record since 1986 when it was 95-56 and lost a seven-game World Series to the New York Mets.

Carlos Valdez (1-0) got the victory. Tom Gordon got his 46th save with his major-league record 43rd in a row.

White Sox 7, Royals 6

In Kansas City, Missouri, Albert Belle drove in three runs and completed one of the most productive seasons in Chicago history.

Belle homered and added two sin-

gles, hiking his hit total to 200. He set team records with 49 home runs, 48 doubles, 152 RBIs, 399 total bases and 99 extra-base hits.

Belle had 31 homers after the All-Star break.

Twins 6, Indians 2

In Minneapolis, the AL Central champion Indians finished the regular season with their sixth loss in seven games Sunday as Matt Lawton hit a three-run double for Minnesota.

Playing in what probably was the last game of his 21-year career, Paul Molitor went 2-for-4 for the Twins. The 42-year-old St. Paul native is eighth on the career list with 3,319 hits. He has said he will announce a decision on whether he will retire in the next month or so.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

W L Pct. GB

Atlanta 106 56 .654 -

New York 88 74 .543 18

Philadelphia 75 87 .463 31

Montreal 65 97 .401 41

Florida 54 108 .333 52

Central Division

St. Louis 102 60 .630 -

Chicago 89 73 .549 13

St. Louis 83 79 .512 19

Cincinnati 77 85 .475 25

Pittsburgh 68 95 28

West Division

San Diego 98 64 .605 -

San Francisco 89 73 .549 9

Los Angeles 83 79 .512 15

Colorado 77 85 .475 21

Arizona 65 97 .401 33

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

W L Pct. GB

New York 114 48 .704 -

Boston 92 70 .568 22

Toronto 88 74 .543 26

Baltimore 79 83 .488 35

Tampa Bay 63 99 .389 51

Central Division

Chicago 89 73 .549 -

Cleveland 80 82 .494 9

Kansas City 72 89 .447 164

Minnesota 70 92 .432 19

Detroit 65 97 .401 24

West Division

Seattle 88 74 .543 -

San Diego 85 77 .525 3

Seattle 76 85 .472 104

